THE TIMES THIS WEEK

On the tip of your tongue

> of the year

The best antidote to seasonal sluggishness is

The Times quiz of the year, which offers

prizes of Times atlases

to the first five correct

entries opened

PAGE 13

**Getting out** 

to the shows

Geoff Brown on the

film releases, Jeremy

Kingston on holiday

shows with children in

mind and Benedict

Nightingale on great

theatre nights in 1990

PAGE 16

Recovery: the

complete guide

The Times offers some

help with the complete

guide to winding down

after the pressures of

winding up

TOMORROW

What happened,

and to whom

Margaret Thatcher was

Shamir responds to Saddam threat

المحل المحل المحل

# Israeli pledge to hit back hard if Iraq attacks

By RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM AND ANDREW McEWEN IN LONDON

ister, Yitzhak Shamir, gave a warning yesterday that war in the Gulf was "very close", and promised the severest retaliation should Iraq attack.

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He was responding to President Saddam Hussein's Christmas Eve threat that Tel Aviv would be his first target if war broke out. Israeli forces are on a higher state of alert than usual, and Mr Shamir said yesterday: "Whoever dares to strike Israel will be struck hard and in the most severe way in return,"

Officials in Jerusalem declined to comment yesterday on reports that Moscow had urged Iraq not to attack Israel because it was likely to respond with a nuclear strike. Western sources believe that President Saddam wants to provoke an Israeli pre-emptive strike, believing that this would split the inter-national alliance ranged against him and unite the

Arab world against Israel. The newspaper Yediot Ahronot yesterday said war in the Gulf was "inevitable" and that Iraq would do everything in its power to drag Israel into

#### Calturation and Calturation of Caltu Schools may

train teachers The government is considering plans to allow schools to train most of their own teachers. It believes that the academic standards of many student teachers, and the training they receive, is too

#### King returns



ael returned to his homeland Times today, Nicu Ceausescu, son of the executed dictator, explains how he tried to curb his parents' excesses.... Page 7 Leading article, page 9

#### Benefit hope

Senior ministers believe that John Major's election as prime minister has secured the future of child benefit Page

#### **Queen's anxiety**

In a sombre Christmas Day message, the Queen yesterday expressed her "deep and overriding anxiety" over the threat of war in the Middle EastPage

#### Wings of change

Most East Germans have bought "winged end-of-year figures" at Christmas all their lives. This year, for the first time, they bought honest angels. But as the first Deutschmark Christmas passes, Anne McElvoy sees 1991 as the year when attitudes will harden.........Page 8

#### Players on trial

A record number of players were sent off last weekend. Professional footballers and club managers carry a responsibility for good behaviour which they have seemed reluc-

INDEX

Births, marriages, deaths... Court & Social

strategic targets in Israel at the beginning of the war". But the former Israeli chief of staff Mordechai Gur said the Iraqi leader would be inviting certain destruction if he were so foolish as to open a "second

Mr Gur, a prominent Labour MP, told army radio that Iraq was already facing defeat by the allied force which had overwhelmingly superior air power. "From a professional military point of view, it would be sheer nonsense for lraq to open an additional front against Israel while the US-led coalition stands against it. Even against Israel alone, Iraq has no chance to win a war. In a direct war, the state of Israel and the Israeli army would be stronger than the Iraqis, and Iraq would suffer a crashing defeat."

On Monday, Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, said his country's army was "in a higher state of readiness and alert than usual", but he doubted whether Iraq could inflict serious damage on Israel, given the inaccuracy and limitations of its missiles.

Mr Arens also insisted that Israel had no intention of launching a pre-emptive strike. However Western experts believe Israel would not hesitate to hit Iraqi missile sites if it was sure the missiles were being prepared for an attack or fitted with chemical warheads, a process which takes several hours.

Asked to assess the danger of war, Mr Shamir said: "I would say the danger is very close. Our citizens know the Israeli army is alert and prepared." President Saddam's transparent aim was to try to split the anti-Iraq alliance by focusing Arab atten-tion on Israel. "but we also know how to act with

Iraq continued its war of words yesterday, threatening to wipe out the American army, leaving only a few deranged soldiers. The al-Jumhuriyah newspaper said: Those who remain will be a few insane or semi-insane soldiers who had escaped the furnace of battle to tell genera-tions about the harm inflicted

THE Israeli prime min- battle by "firing missiles at on them by Bush's insistence on aggression and his false pride and empty arrogance.

"He will come out of it with fatal wounds, a defeated army of dead soldiers, allies with toppled thrones, agents with chopped heads, and the Zionist entity will receive a share of the believers."

The Gulf confrontation dominated the Christian world's thoughts, with the Pope, the Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury all calling for peace in their

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia also appealed to President Saddam to avert the disaster of war in an address to the Gulf Co-operation Council summit in Doha. "We wish that (President Saddam), who was to us a brother, friend and ally, (should) know that the curtain is not yet drawn on the scorching war and that he can spare himself and his people its horror. It is braver to opt for peace than for war."

He said the Gulf countries had proved they could stand up to him, but could opt for reconciliation if President Saddam so chose.

The six-nation council reiterated its demand for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and for Iraq to pay compensation for damage caused. Kuwaiti representatives at the meeting suggested that some Western forces should be asked to remain in the region for at least five years after the country had been liberated. Ahmed Jarallah, editor of the al-Seyassal newspaper, said: "It is no longer a sin that we keep US forces in our territory."

In Cairo, President Mubarak told reporters that Iraq helicopter yesterday made would be the big loser if war broke out. "The decision of one man will lead to the death of hundreds of thousands." And in London, Tom King, the defence secretary, said that President Saddam would be very severely beaten" if the military option were used. "There will be no question

about the outcome."

Dread of war, page 5 Letters, page 9 Queen's message, page 11

### Gorbachev power strategy hits snag

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Soviet parliament ap- he seeks, but he has an uphill and economic chaos.

Deputies, the highest leg-islative body, voted to amend an article of the Soviet constitution to subordinate all organs of executive power to the president. It also approved creation of the post of vice-president, but it rejected a proposal to create a supreme state inspectorate, intended to ensure that Mr Gorbachev's decrees are carried out.

Mr Gorbachev still has a chance to secure all the powers

proved new powers for Presi-struggle to persuade delegates dent Gorbachev yesterday, to accept the whole of his new but denied him some of the administrative structure, authority he sought to halt the which critics have described country's slide into political as a blueprint for dictatorship. The debate continues today The Congress of People's and after votes on all the individual clauses, the whole pilot Steve Rovery, winch and radar operator Warrant Of-ficer Pete Williams and Winchman Sergeant Mark package of constitutional change will be put to the vote. That leaves the possibility that Mr Gorbachev could recoup the extra authority he wants, by winning a required twothirds majority on the overall

> The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, said his republic, Continued on page 18, col 2

West helps Moscow, page 6

Photographs, page 3 Gale damage, page 18 optimism after two years

#### Fresh hope for Rushdie after embracing Islam By ROBIN YOUNG

MIMES

who brought about Salman Rushdie's public conversion to Islam is today sending telegrams to President Rafsantheir second long-range rescue mission in two days, battling against Atlantic gales to reach a sailor badly injured when he itual leader, suggesting that the fatwa (religious decree) was swept through an anchor pronounced against the novelist's life by the late Ayatollah Khomeini should now be severe-weather warnings from

London Weather Centre. It Hesham el-Essawy, chair-man of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, said yesterday: "Salman Rushdie has now terday had been feared lost from the 40,000-tonne Caribembraced the Islamic faith for the first time. That means bean Star, but was found clinging to the anchor chain in under Islamic law the slate must be wiped clean and his past sins forgiven.

withdrawn.

"Some people are suggest-ing that Mr Rushdie has only issued such a statement now to save his skin," Dr el-Essawy said, "but I know that he is a any further agreements for man whose arm cannot be translation into other lanman whose arm cannot be twisted. What he says is what he believes. I also know that his conversion was not accomplished yesterday, but two months ago. Now it is time to



Rushdie: in new mood of

THE Harley Street dentist that the fatwa will be ment of Great Britain, said Mr withdrawn,"

Mr Rushdie's declaration of faith came after a meeting on Christmas Eve with Muhamjani of Iran and Ayatollah mad Ali Mahgoub, the Egyp-Khameini, the country's spir-(religious endowments), and that this is the most optimistic other senior Muslim figures.

In a statement issued after the meeting. Mr Rushdie said he accepted that there was no God but Allah and that Muhammad was his last prophet. It continued: "I state that I do not agree with any statement in my novel The Satanic Verses untered by any of the characters who insult the Prophet Muhammad or who cast aspersions on Islam or upon the authenticity of the Holy Koran, or who reject the

divinity of Allah. "I undertake not to publish the paperback edition of The Satanic Verses or to permit guages while any risk of further offence exists. I will continue to work for a better understanding of Islam in the world as I have always attempted to in the past."

Mr Rushdie has been in hiding since Ayatollah Khomeini pronounced his death sentence 22 months ago for blasphemies contained in The Satanic Verses.

The author's public declaration of faith did not meet with an immediate welcome in Iran or among extremist Muslim leaders in Bradford.

The Iranian news agency reported Mr Rushdie's state-

ment, but one newspaper, Abrar, dismissed it bluntly, declaring that the fatwa was irrevocable. In Bradford, Mohammed Siddique, leader of the Muslim Youth Move-

Royal buffeting: the Queen, the Queen Mother and Canon George Hall, rector of Sandringham church, being buffeted by high winds after attending Christmas Day service at the church. Queen's message, page 11

Rushdie could never be

Mr Rushdie, speaking by

telephone to a news con-

ference after issuing his state-

moment in the last two years."

• Cooper visit: Iran allowed

British diplomats in Tehran to

pay a pre-Christmas visit to

Roger Cooper, the British

businessman who has been

held there since 1985, White-

Man in the News, page 2

Leading article, page 9

hall sources said yesterday.

forgiven.

far from the only politician for whom it was a funny old world in 1990, George Hill reviews the highlights and lowlights and Sara Driver provides a month-by-month

reminder of an extraordinary year FRIDAY

#### Do wake me before it's over

There are those who have trouble staying awake on New Year's Eve. Victoria McKee suggests some sensible ways to keep alert SATURDAY

Quality journalism six days a week: make a habit of The Times with a regular order

# Can you problem faster than Shakespeare?

FREE (	)	MAN
LOVE (	)	<b>FORTY</b>
BASE (	)	TOP
CLOUD (	)	<b>GALE</b>
MUG (	)	CUP
HOOF (	)	<b>CLOVEN</b>
7ITHER (	١	HARP

**HOW TO SOLVE THIS PUZZLE** 

Replace the first letter of the left hand word and the last letter of the right hand word with another letter to form two other words. Then write the new letter in the brackets. to find something close to Shakespeare's heart.

If you can solve this puzzle, you could be eligible to join Mansa. The High IO Society. Cut out the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test. To: MENSA, FREEPOST, WOLVERHAMPTON WV2 1BR. (No stamp required)

POST CODE\_

# In Dublin's fair city, the bars are so scanty

Helicopter

in second

long-range

rescue

By Lin Jenkins

THE crew of an RAF Sea King

Yesterday's gales brought

said today's winds would be

The seaman saved yes-

heavy seas on the ship's hull.

He had a broken thigh and

For Wing Commander Jo-

sephine Kingston, a service

doctor with the crew, the

hazardous mission in force

eight gales was only her sec-

Her first was on Sunday,

when a badly injured woman

sailor was winched from a

Soviet container ship 300

miles southwest of Ireland by

the crew from RAF Brawdy,

Yesterday's rescue was by

the same crew of Flight

Lieutenant Mike Bouldon, co-

Stevens. An RAF Nimrod

from St Mawgan in Cornwall, which located the Liberian-

registered tanker about 200

Continued on page 18, col 7

miles west of the Irish coast.

blustery than

chain hole.

esterday's,

and rescue.

southwest Wales.

By ROBIN YOUNG

STUDENTS of Irish literature will be taken aback to learn that Dublin is desperately short of pubs. Although the Irish capital appears to casual visitors to have a bar on almost every street corner, and a literary tradition founded largely on the consumption of alcohol, figures prove that Dublin is a deprived area for drinkers. There are fewer bars per head

Dublin area, which is easily the most densely populated part of the country. The political campaign for more liberal licensing along the Liffey is led by Pat Upton, an Irish Labour party member of the Senate, the upper house of the

republic's parliament. Mr Upton's campaign fuels tap-room controversy in the bar of Buswell's hotel, conveniently sited opposite Leinster House, the seat of the Irish parliament. There it is possible to find even cabinet ministers at the bar, quaffing prodigiously and holding forth on the issues of the day in shrill tones.

Mr Upton, who backs his stance with statistics, says: "There are not enough pubs in Dublin to make for meaningful competition, particularly in the suburbs. The figures show there are 200 adults for each public house in Ireland, but this rises to 1,500 adults for every pub in Dublin. In some suburbs there are up to 20,000 adults per pub."

competition has led to drink prices in Dublin rising at a higher rate than Ireland's currently low inflation. Over the five years from 1985, inflation was 18.6 per cent, but the cost of a pint in Dublin's bars rose by 28 per cent.

No new seven-day licences have been granted in the Irish capital since regulations were tightened 90 years ago to curb the formerly spiralling number of public houses in the city. That has meant good business for licence-holders, but an expensive life for drinkers.

On Saturday nights, some publicans have to employ staff to keep the number of customers entering their bars within the bounds of comfort. When pubs come on to the market, aspiring landlords often pay well over £1 million.

of population in Dublin than anywhere else in the Republic of Ireland. The Irish justice minister, Ray Burke, whose department is responsible for new public house licences, has so far resisted demands to issue more. Those campaigning to increase the number of places where Dubliners can take their drink say that only 775 of the Irish Republic's 11,019 pubs are in the

# Tenancy deals push pub landlords into a winter of discontent

THE livelihood of thousands of public house landlords is at risk because of the economic recession and new tenancy agreements and prices introduced by the brewers, according to the National Licensed Victuallers' Association (NVLA).

The association itself has been criticised by many of its members for not fighting the new measures introduced by the brewers, but John Overton, its chief executive, said that the blame for the pressures on the industry should be placed on the government and

He said the difficulties have arisen from conditions imposed after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) report into the brewing industry, designed to

more competition and, in turn, keep prices down. "We have spent many months negotiating and fighting to put the case for our members and, in many instances we have achieved results," he said.

"In the case of the MMC, we have taken issue with the brewers over interim rent increases linked to the stocking of guest beers, and prevented such rises. But, when it comes to the normal rent reviews, it is difficult to quantify what proportion of the increases are due to guest beers.

"In all these cases, we can only go so far. As the industry goes through a revolution, many licensees are finding it difficult to

Of the association's 18,000 members, an estimated 5,000

ing to one brewery source. Many young couples who moved into the licensed trade for the first time under leasing schemes offered by some breweries are

facing financial ruin. Their plight is so bad in some areas that the NVLA has been told by local authorities that housing can no longer be offered to families who have had to quit public houses in which they also lived because they could not do enough business to cover the costs of their leases.

The big brewers, who have been made to reduce their number of tied houses, have carried out detailed reviews of their estates, and only the most profitable and best-run pubs are being kept on, with the others sold off. The tenants of many of being offered new leases that they cannot afford, the NVLA said and the pubs are becoming managed houses.

The association added that many new public house chains have been formed, with the brewers taking a 14.9 per cent stake - the mimimum limit imposed by the MMC conditions -and a seat on the board. In that way, they can promote their own products in the new chains.

The new leases give the landlords more protection than they had in the past but, according to the NVLA, the properties being offered have not been properly maintained by the brewers in the past, and, under the new leases, the tenant becomes responsible for all repairs and decoration. The association said:

"The brewers are not anxious to see so many tenanted houses because, under the new government measures to liberalise pubs and give the public a wider and more competitive choice, these tenanted houses can offer guest beers whether the brewery likes it

The brewers, however, say that the leases offer stability and are straightforward, and that they have had a good response to

The Office of Fair Trading has already investigated complaints that some of the new leases being offered are being sent out with letters recommending the choice of "guest beers" that the landlords should consider. Publicans had complained that the government's intention to break up the monopoly of the "big five"

greater choice was being seriously

The NVLA has alleged that the brewers are so determined to keep their 82 per cent share of the beer market that they are putting pressure on their tied publicans to stop them selling guest beers.

Public house tenants have been able to sell guest beers since May. when the trade and industry department's Tied Estates Orders came into effect. They followed last year's MMC report on brewing, which concluded that a "complex monopoly situation"

According to the NLVA, however, only a minority of tenants have started selling a guest beer because they are worried about repercussions. The relationship between tenants and brewers was

now open warfare, it added. The Small Independent Brewers' Association (SiBA), which represents 160 brewers, said it had received about a dozen complaints from members who had tried to sell beer to tied houses. The owners of Larkins Brewery, near Tunbridge Wells, sold one £50 barrel of beer to a public house tenant, it said, but was then sent a £300 invoice from the brewer that owned the pub for the use of its hand pump.

Van is k

Bass reluctantly put more than £600 million worth of public houses on the market for sale or lease after the investigation into the brewing industry. The company has 7,240 public houses, and has invited offers for 2,680. most of which are run by tanants.

Dablin dearth, page 1

Search for

baby heart

hindered

by holiday

SURGEONS searching for a

heart donor for Christy Strachan said yesterday that the week-old baby was in a critical but stable condition. The international search for

a heart is being conducted through the UK Transplant

Service, based in Bristol, but

staff said it was difficult to

trace a suitable organ because

of the holiday and because the

The boy is on a life-support

machine at Great Ormond

Street Hospital for Sick Child-

ren, where he was taken when

a serious heart defect was

diagnosed shortly after birth.

His mother, Tracey Strachan,

aged 28, a legal executive, and father March Strachan, a

bookseller, spent yesterday at

Gary Crellin, duty admin-

istrator at Great Ormond Street, said that Christy's con-

dition was fairly common and

transplants were often carried

out on babies. Thirty per cent

of the heart surgery carried out

at the hospital was on new-

his home in New Barnet.

and was doing well in hospital.

"Christy has had another good

might and is stable. There is a

In The Netherlands, a three-

suitable heart is found."

The baby had arived from

100

£ 57....

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Mark Errord

MET: T:TSM

Sales -

Contract,

child was so small.

the bedside.

born infants.

# Child benefit thaw signals end to annual battles

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

to give more generous treat- next year, particularly so close ment to child benefit next year to an election. amid strong indications that the annual battles to prevent it being frozen are over.

Major as prime minister has secured the future of the benefit, which is paid to seven million mothers. In October Tony Newton, the social security secretary, brought to an end the complete three-year freeze on child benefit when he won from the Treasury a deal allowing it to be increased by £1 a week for the first-born

In the inevitable review in preparation for next summer's public spending round, senior policies for family support".

ministers are optimistic that ln next year's review the ministers are optimistic that the payment for other childwhich has remained at £7.25 a week for three years, will also be increased. Mr former social security minister, and his colleagues are confident that he will sanction



Newton: tough battle with

THE government is expected the spending of extra money

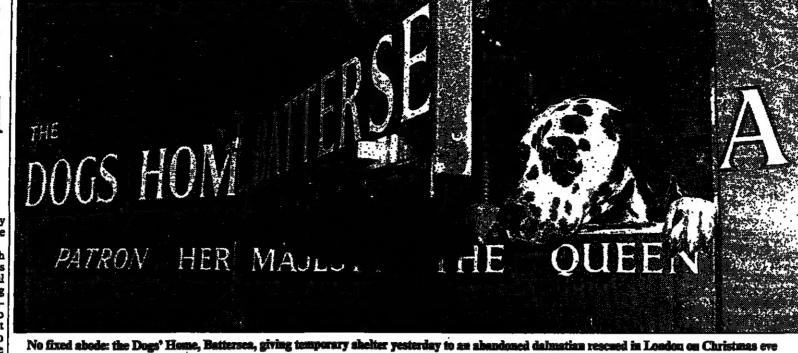
Mr Newton fought a tough battle with the Treasury this eing frozen are over. year by securing a partial Senior ministers believe uprating in the benefit, costing that the election of John £260million. His more important achievement was to secure from Margaret retain child benefit. The successive freezing of the benefit led many MPs to believe that it would eventually be replaced. However, Mr Newton, in a sentence agreed in advance with Mrs Thatcher, said when announcing the increase on October 24 that child benefit "is and will remain a strong element in our

the Conservative party's fam- year. Major is a long-time supporter ily credentials. Another of child benefit and was a possibility is that the move ily credentials. Another could be linked to other changes in the tax and benefit system. That could involve increasing child benefit all round but counting it as new frigates. taxable income for working mothers, helping those who stay at home.

Talks began with the French soon after the multi-nation NFR90 project fell apart when stay at home.

crease payments across the agree on the hull design and dorig dut to lower the cut-off point. Once a child had of dissension was a demand by reached 11, for instance, payments would cease. Mrs Thatcher's departure

from office is believed likely by senior MPs to lessen the influence of right-wingers who want to see child benefit abandoned and the money used instead for families need-



#### Anglo-French link Trachoma likely on frigate

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT BRITAIN and France look set of an Angio-French collabo-

British and French officials

are to draw up a report on each

navy's specific requirements.

Royal Navy sources said that

provided the requirements

matched, they would move on

to project definition in the

Britain wants the first Type

42 replacement to enter ser-

vice in about 2001. Col-

laboration with the French

would save money: the Royal

Navy's proposed 12 frigates

would be built at British

shipyards, but the savings will

come through shared research

A senior navy source said

yesterday: "The French want a

warship to protect their

nuclear carrier from air attack,

whereas we need a new frigate

with several roles, not just air

flexible hull. But I think we're

coming closer now to a hull

If an Anglo-French pro-gramme is agreed it will be the first time that Britain will

have signed a collaborative

project for a warship. At-

tempts made with the French

and the Belgians in the 1970s

came to nothing. The am-

bitious NFR90 project was to

have involved the US, Can-ada, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and The Netherlands.

For the Anglo-French pro-

posal, the two navies will

elect different missiles but

from the same group, called

the Family of Air Missile

Systems. The navy source said

the most important hurdle would be the choice of combat

management system, the over-

all command and control

network for the frigate.

and development costs.

middle of next year.

to collaborate on building a option of linking the benefit to frigate for the late 1990s, after inflation will be considered as the collapse of a £12 billion a means of further boosting eight-nation programme last

> The Royal Navy needs to replace its fleet of 12 Type 42 air defence destroyers with a multi-role frigate. France wants between four and six

Another option is to in- none of the nations could Italy for a larger galley to meet its sailors' spaghetti and pizza needs. The French also wanted more storage space for

wine bottles. Since the Royal Navy reonires a reasonable storage area for beer kegs, the dif-ferences in drinking habits is not expected to get in the way

### vaccine a step nearer

By NIGEL HAWKES

A VACCINE against the world's main cause of blindness has come closer as a result of research work at Southampton university medical school. The organism Chlamydia trachomatis causes millions of cases of the disease trachoma thoughout

the developing world. Attempts in the 1960s to produce a vaccine against the organism failed, but now Mike Ward and Southampton colleagues have used genetic engineering to produce a vaccine which has shown encouraging results in rabbits

They identified the gene in the Chlamydia trach organism responsible for constructing the organism's outer membrane protein, the shell of material that normally surrounds it. Using genetic engineering, they inserted this gene into a bacterium and produced copies of the major outer membrane protein.

This protein stimulates the production of antibodies after infection by Chlamydia trachomatis. Used as a vaccine, the protein triggers antibody production but cannot harm the recipient because it is only the wrapping, not the works.
The earlier vaccines, based on whole Chlamydia, created more serious infections in those receiving them than in controls who did not. The Southampton

nique fools the body into thinking it is seeing real Chlamydia when it is seeing only the organism's overcoat In rabbits it produced high levels of antibodies which

### Voting secrets of a House divided

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major and Neil Kinnock voted in exactly the same number of divisions in the Commons in the last parliamentary year. They took part, however, in fewer than a third of those called. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, managed 39.71 per cent of votes and Margaret Thatcher 16.81.

Mr Major's record of 31.59 per cent shows him voting in Sydney Chapman and Irvine fewer divisions during his Patnick on 94.20 and 92.75 year as Chancellor than all but respectively. The MPs who three of his cabinet colleagues, voted in the fewest divisions if lizvei on the party speechmaking circuit, took part in 24.64 per cent of votes, while Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary who was often abroad, pertici-

pated in 24.93. Of the shadow cabinet, only Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, voted in fewer divisions than Mr Kinnock. The most assiduous cabinet

participant by far was the trade secretary, Peter Lilley, who voted in 72.17 per cent of the divisions. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, scored 60.87 per cent, and Tony Newton, the social security secretary, 60.58. In the shadow cabinet, the

CABINET: Peter Lilley 72.17; SHADOW CABINET: Margaret Kenneth Clarke 60.87; Tony Beckett 59.42; Barry Jones Newton 60.58; Ian Lang 56.23; 58.55; Ann Clwyd 57.10; Robin Michael Howard 52.75; Kenneth Baker 51.30; David Hunt 53.33; Donald Dewar 52.46; John MacGregor 48.99; Frank Dobson 52.46; John Carlot 14.80; Chela Bat. 49.86; John MacGregor 48.99; David Mellor 44.93; Chris Pat-ten 44.06; Norman Lamont 39.71; Malcolm Riffond 37.97;

most avid voter was Margaret Beckett, who participated in 59.42 per cent of the divisions. Barry Jones, the shadow Welsh secretary, took part in 58.55, per cent and Ann Clwyd, the overseas aid north London, on Saturday spokesman, in 57.10 per cent. Labour backbencher Dennis Skinner on 97.68 per cent, consultant cardio-thoracte surgeon on standby in case a followed by two Tory whips, day-old child was also in desperate need of a transplant.

Tom King had the same rate. were Sam Galbraith, the Lab-Michael Heseltine, who spent our health spokesman who time, Cyril Smith, the Rochdale Liberal (4.64 per cent), and the former prime ministe Edward Heath (7.25 per cent). The records have been analysed by Campaign Informa-

tion, whose survey covered 345 divisions between November 1989 and November 1990. The average for Conservative MPs was 56.87 participation in votes. Labour averaged 51.52 and Liberal Democrat MPs 51.73.

Some MPs have to travel more than others, and some have "pairs" with whom they can make an agreement to miss a division without penalising their party.

David Mellor 44.93; Chris Patten 44.05; Norman Lamont
39.71; Malcolm Riffkind 37.97;
Peter Brooke 36.23; William Wakedegrave 34.49; John Wakeham 32.75; John Gurmer
32.75; Tom King 31.59; John Gurmer
32.75; Tom King 31.59; John Gurmer
32.75; Michael Heseltine 24.64. Hattersley 31.01.

Tube charge Dina LeTarte, aged 29, of Phoenix, Arizona, who claims

Tourist on

she stabbed two men with a pen-knife in self-defence when they attacked her on a London Underground platform, appeared in court on Monday charged with grevious bodily

Mrs LeTarte was conditionally bailed to come back to City of London magistrates at Guidhall on January 2 with the men she is accused of stabbing. The men face assault charges.

Mrs LeTarte, staying in Forest Hill, north London, who was due to fly home on December 5, was ordered to report to Lewisham police station between 5pm and 7pm each Friday as part of her bail conditions. Magistrates also continued her £2,500 surety. Her lawyer, Bruce Cooper, successfully appealed for reporting restrictions to be lifted to bring witnesses forward.

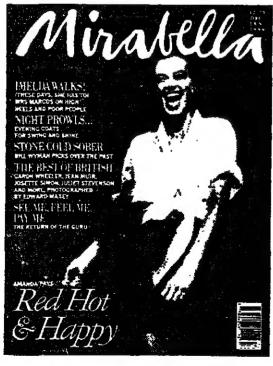
rears for driver

Kent police have issued an urgent appeal to the public to help to trace Graham Gillham, aged 36, a van driver from Shoreham, near Sevenoaks. Kent, who disappeared depressed and suicidal."

Denise Lyell, aged 33, a skydiver from London, was killed when her parachute failed to open after she jumped from 12,000ft, police at Zephyrhills. Florida, said yesterday. Ms Lyell, who had made more than 200 jumps and was on holiday, landed in an investigation.

Shopping trollies are being to bombard shoppers with advertisements while they buy. The Video Carts, developed in the United States, will he in 600 stores by the end of 1991, responding sensors in the store to advertise particu-Rushdie deal, page 1 lar products as shoppers ap-

# ON SALE NOW



Imelda Marcos: **Exclusive Interview** 

Bill Wyman comes clean

Plus best New Looks

Nirabella

#### Man in the News: Hesham el-Essawy

### Extolling merits of religious tolerance

DR HESHAM el-Essawy was one of the first Muslim leaders to protest against the publication of The Sajanic Verses, but he has always said that Ayotollah Khomeini's farwa (religious decree) was against the principles of the Koran.

He took part in a television debate with Salman Rushdie about his novel two weeks before the fatwa was pronounced. "If he had paid more attention and trusted me then," Dr el-Essawy said yesterday, "all this might have been

He is a Harley Street dentist and a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. who came to London from Egypt in 1970. Twelve years later he founded the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, of which he describes himself as "the paying chairman", because he was concerned at the amount of abuse and misrepresentation Islam received in the West.

The society brings together Islamic scholars and community leaders. Dr el-Essawy says he makes no claim to represent British Muslims, but adds that some of his society's members are themselves leaders of community organ-

isations with large followings.

He describes his beliefs as "antifanatical". He is outspokenly contemp-



extremist Muslim leaders

tuous of the standing of some of the extremist leaders whose vitriolic condemnations of Mr Rushdie have attracted most attention in the British press. "These people have very little understanding of Islam and no following beyond the proportion of the population you might normally expect to find who are mentally unbalanced to some de-gree," he said yesterday. "The press

should not report these extremists as if from home on December 19 they were leading a fanatical army of and has not since contacted Muslim militants. The truth is that the his wife and two children. A great majority of Muslims in this country | police spokesman said: "He is are patient, law-abiding, gentle people."

Dr el-Essawy has been pursuing his own examination of Mr Rushdie since Skydiver killed seeing the author's interview with Melvyn Bragg on The South Bank Show in September. The author remarked: "God knows when I will see Bomhay again." Dr el-Essawy asked whether that reference to a deity was a Freudian slip. In a series of telephone calls that followed, the dentist established that the author, while saying that he had no formal beliefs, did harbour religious feelings. Acknowledging that he was not as secular as he had led some people to Aviation Authority is holding suppose, Mr Rushdie told him: "I have often spoken of a God-shaped hole

Dr cl-Essawy also realised that Mr Video shopping Rushdie had come to Britain at the age of 13 and had no Islamic education. He fitted with electronic screens could not, therefore, the dentist argued. be condemned as an apostate since he had not previously been a believer.

"What I have been doing," Dr el-Essawy said yesterday, "is to help Salman Rushdie explain himself."

Leading article, page 9 preach them.

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adina regularly by airline beding a night away from and made the tea and lay ad waiting for it to cook. What see heat is recorded in The let has association. ad hot even closed his eyes he has violently rolled from the family rolled from the family

# Man is killed in pub brawl after taking wrong glass

A MAN was stabbed to death friends were involved in a Christmas Eve after mistakenly drinking from the wrong glass. He was one of a number of people murdered during holiday brawls which left scores of people, including policemen, injured.

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Police named the dead man as Kenneth Maclean, aged 26, who was knifed during a argument in the crowded pub-lic bar of the Old Stillage public house in Woking Surrey. He was dead on arrival at St Peter's hospital,

started as a result of some drinking from someone else's beer mug. There was a mild altercation and then things quietened down but the row suddently started up again and the man was stabbed through the heart with a knife."

Mr Maclean had recently arrived in Surrey from Scotland in search of work and found a job as a labourer. Police last night were questioning two men.

On Christmas Eve a woman was shot dead at short range with a double barrel shotgun as she opened the door of her home in Lordswood, Chatham, Kent. Elsa Barber, aged 42, was shot just as the family were about to go to bed after celebrations at the house. Her husband was in the front room. Kent police said that Balvinder Singh Chagger, aged 26, of Lordswood, Chatham, had been charged with murder and would appear before magistrates tomorrow.

Police are investigating whether the death of Gurcharun Singh Mohail, aged 41, who died in hospital on Sunday after being beaten while at a bus stop, had a racial motive. Mr Mohail, of Manor Park, north London, was found critically ill at his home by relatives and died shortly afterwards in hospital. A post-mortem examination disclosed that he died from haemorrhaging after a blow to

A man aged 24 died on Christmas Eve when he fell through a plate glass window in Derby city centre. Police believe he had been out celebrating when he crashed the window Debenhams store in Victoria Street just after 10.30pm. He died in Derbyshire Royal

Infirmary. A teenager was last night critically ill in Bradford Royal Infirmary after being stabbed in a city centre brawl on Christmas eve. Police, who are

through the heart during a dispute with two men before fight while celebrating on he was stabbed in the chest.

A man aged 58 was found murdered in a police cell during a Christmas Day check at Hammersmith police station. The man, who had been picked up for being drunk, was sharing a cell with another man arrested separately for the same reason.

Police said: "They were placed in the same cell where drunken prisoners are placed to sober up. The men were the cell's sole occupants. The man was found dead during a Cherisey.

Det Chief Inspector Derek
Short said: "We believe it to his body."

Two policemen who tackled a suspected burglar have undergone hospital tests to see if they contracted Aids from the man after he bit them as they tried to make an arrest.

Inspector George Waddington and two off-duty police constables, who live in a flat at Forest Gate, southeast London, chased the man down the road after watching him leave a neighbour's house. The man bit the inspec-tor on the thumb and one of the constables on the thigh. Both men were punched in the head during the struggle.

A Samaritan who intervened to stop a girl being molested as she walked home early on Christmas Day was serious in hospital last night after being stabbed in the chest and arms.

The man, whom police have not named to protect him, was attacked after stepping in to stop a man abusing a girl as she walked in Oxford Road, Reading. The attacker turned on the man and stabbed him with a knife before running off.



nd thick coats come into their own yesterday for hardy walkers as a rough sea crashes es at worshippers (below) gathering at Canterbury cathedral for the morning service. (



#### **Buyers of faulty sales** items 'can get refund'

By NICHOLAS WATT

BARGAIN hunters who el- in the sales are breaking the bow their way through the law. If items are broken, sales should be careful not to shoppers are entitled to their damage any goods or fittings money back as if they had as shops can claim against bought them at the full price. them, the Consumers' Associ- All items have to correspond ation says today.

they can sue the store.

yer, also points out that shops than £100 to pay with a credit who, like the coastguard and displaying notices saying that card, because a refund for air-sea rescue, fire, police and not releasing the name of the customers cannot claim a faulty goods can be claimed ambulance services, cannot man aged 18, said he and two refund on faulty goods bought from the credit card company. leave their posts. Kennel

to their description.

prove that the stores have sale goods, particularly if they been negligent they would not are marked "shop-soiled" or be liable. If they are hurt in the "seconds", as shops were not bird and pudding donated by the aircraft crews, work over Christmas bonus, too, because the weather forecasters and crush by goods toppling over, responsible for defects if they local yachtsmen broke the had been pointed out to the routine, however, for the three Keith Richards, a senior buyer. Mr Richards advises keepers of the Needles light-Consumer Association law- customers spending more house off the Isle of Wight

### Escaping roast turkey for a day at work

Britain settled down yesterday Battersea, cared for their to turkey and television, hundreds of thousands of others went to work as normal Lin Jenkins writes).

Those in farming, totalling more than 3 per cent of the skeleton staff working as op-working population, and otherworking and an emergencyers in the national health only directory enquiries premium rates before settling and emergency repair teams service were among those for service. British Airways down to enjoy their own on standby to deal with power whom Christmas was not day of rest.

The delivery by lifeboat of a

WHILE most people in maids at the Dogs' Home, petrol stations opened yes. The electricity industry expercharges, and at zoos and safari Some corner shops also parks throughout the country only the office workers had the day off.

> British Telecom had a organised a quiz, with a celebrations. European trip as the prize, for the festive period.

and homes for children and lunch to repair storm damage, all day to see whether a the elderly were also at work if Car breakdown services also snowflake falls: an event that their jobs involved the care of operated, with a depleted staff, people rather than admin- but many popular local public istrative matters. More sur- houses hired extra staff to prisingly, however, many cope with the lunchtime rush.

terday, staffed by volunteers. choice, and many taxi drivers, who have reported a lean Christmas run-up period in erators and an emergency- paigns, made the most of the yesterday with the usual staff

The bad weather gave their ground crews who, like plumbers and builders a business as usual, as it was for he festive period. they could charge high rates the person who stands on top Staff in prisons, hospitals for leaving their Christmas of the London Weather Centre

iences a big surge in demand for power on Christmas Day, opened for part of the day, by as people throughout the country cook a big meal and then turn their kettles on in unison after the main television film ends. It operated cuts and line damage

For parts of the media it was would signal a less prosperous new year for the bookies.

#### **Drinking** drivers told of walking hazards

By A STAFF REPORTER

MOTORISTS who have heeded the government drinkdrive advertisement campaign have been issued with a further warning to avoid drinking and walking

Road safety experts believe that one result of the success of campaigns aimed at drivers is that people may endanger themselves by drinking and then going on foot. Hampshire County Council's road safety panel is concerned about the growing number of pedestrians involved in road accidents over Christmas.

Alastair Gibson, the panel's chairman, said: "While it is good news that more and more people are leaving the car at home and walking to the pub, there are still problems. Pedestrians always come off worse if they argue with cars."

Meanwhile police contin-

ued their drive against drunken drivers. In Sussex police had breath-tested 838 motorists in Christmas period up to 6am vesterday, with 61 (or 7 per cent) proving positive, against Il per cent last

The number of drivers failing breath tests in Lincolnshire was up on the total for the same period last year. Between 6am on Wednesday December 19 and Christmas Eve, 431 drivers were tested, with 31 proving positive. Last year 420 drivers were tested. with 25 positive.

#### Arson at school

Police believe child arsonists started a Christmas Eve fire at Highcliffe school, Dorset, that destroyed dozens of music instruments and caused £200,000 damage.

#### Bright sparks

More than 50 parents or Teesside who had overlooked vital ingredient for a happy Christmas took advantage of an offer by a local commercial radio station to supply batteries for toys and torches.

#### Silver lining

Gavin and Craig Preston, aged seven, woke yesterday to find presents. But police, traders and inmates of a young offenders' institution in Co Durham raised nearly £400, and the twins, from Bishop Auckland, were taken to a

#### Healthy recipe

To revive flagging spirits, the National Trust and the Ramblers' Association are holding more than 100 walks of between three and nine miles from today until New Year's Martin Jacques, page 8 | day in England and Wales.

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on (7) 7 hold Mrson My (7) 120 (5) 200 (5) Events Ten (3)

Her (7)

### Police to investigate cathedral losses

By PETER VICTOR

THE Director of Public Prosecutions has approved police investigations into the Lincoln cathedral's ill-fated years later, is there such enterprise to display the Magna Carta at World Expo depend on an examination of legal and ecclesiastical circumstances.

The police are reversions.

investigate events in Australia. Their enquiries will centre on the use of £90,000 from a Magna Carta bank account to fund the project. They are also likely to consider whether the chapter was authorised to approve spending hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Several questions arise from the venture. How did it man-

visitors? Why, two and half animosity between Canon



Hardy: has compiled a 535-point report

age to spend more than Rex Davis, the organiser of 1988, which showed the total the exhibit, and the Very Rev cost of the trip would be did a donation box yield only Brandon Jackson, the dean A\$1,840,000 (£870,000), in-£938 from more than 900,000 chosen by 10 Downing Street cluding A\$680,000 for the visitors? Why, two and half to sort out the troubled exhibition stand. He esticathedral?

Robert Hardy, the Bishop of Admonition and Award, was May 2 this year.

wooden collection box placed found to total £938 despite 900,000 visitors to the stand.

mated that merchandise sales These questions and some would raise A\$1,104,000 to

of the answers lie in a 535- A\$1,808,000. The bishop point report by the Right Rev pointed out in his admonition that this left a potential loss of Lincoln. The report, called an up to A\$736,000 (£350,000).

Admonition and Award, was "It was clear that members of compiled after a church court the chapter did not appreciate hearing held by the bishop on the possible significance of May 2 this year. this," he said.

that the contents of a heavy costs of the venture. Had it centre's breeding station as not, losses would have topped part of a non-violent camon the exhibition stand £600,000. As it was, losses throughout the exhibit were totalled £80,775. Mr Jackson said: "It is now between the Physiology. He was the sub-bishop and four resident can ject of the front's attention bishop and four resident can-The bishop's report is also one, it is in the hands of the years ago, but yesterday's raid critical of costings produced police. I know no more than did not involve animals under by Canon Davis in January what is in the admonition." his care.

#### Cats freed in protest

EXPERTS believe that 60 breeding cats, stolen and set free by members of the Animal Liberation Front during a Christmas Day raid, will not survive in the open for long because their immune system is not strong.

The attack on a cattery run by Oxford university at Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire, is believed to be the start of a new campaign by the The bishop concluded that

In the end World Expo agifront. It said that 60 cats had
it was "wholly unacceptable" reed to waive £579,550 of the paign against Colin Blake-more, Waynflete Professor of

# IT MUST BE TIME FOR THE ALFRED DUNHILL SALE.



SALE STARTS DECEMBER 28TH.



Visit Alfred Dunbill at 30 Duke Street St James's, Burlington Arcade and 5 Sloane Street.

### Ghost brings air crew down to earth with a bump

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE senior airline steward was tired. It had been a hard day looking after passengers on the British Midland service between Teesside and London and now all he wanted was a

cup of tea and bed. He had been allocated room 65 in the west wing of the St George hotel, 150 yards from Teesside airport terminal and used regularly by airline crews spending a night away from

The steward made the tea and lay on his bed waiting for it to cool. What happened next is recorded in The Log, official magazine of the British Airline Pilots Association.

"He had not even closed his eyes when he was violently rolled from the bed and pinned to the floor. The light

struggled vainly against the terrific force holding him down but was unable to rise.

"The weight pressing down over the whole of his body left him gasping for breath. He describes the sensation as similar to drowning. In panic he tried to call for help but no sound came from his lips. After a period he estimates to have been between one and two minutes, the weight was lifted from his body and everything returned to normal." The steward had become yet another victim of the Ghost of Teesside.

So many crews staying in the hotel's west wing reported similar strange experiences that Captain Barney Concannon, one of British Midland's most senior and levelheaded pilots, decided to investigate further. He had a particular in-centive the same thing happened to was on and he could see no one. He him. He said that as he was trying to cases, shadowy figures, flying objects

sleep in room 62, "I felt a heavy, cold and even "a high-pitched, inhuman pressure on both lower legs, as if laugh." Captain Concannon said: "I pressure on both lower legs, as if someone or something was sitting on them. From the knees down my legs felt encased in ice." Eventually, he wrote: "Using the most authoritative voice I could

muster I told the presence in no uncertain terms to go away. Not the actual words I used but a close enough approximation.

"The oppressive weight immediately left my less and the temperature of the room increased."

Within days of asking if others had

had similar experiences Captain Concannon said he was inundated

with similar stories, ten of which he

repeated in the magazine.
All involve rooms in the west wing and all reported the same experience of cold, a pressing feeling on part or even all of the body and, in some

have always had an open mind about ghosts. Yet so many people — all experienced, level-headed crew members — have had similar experiences that I had to believe that something beyond our normal understanding is there and that what I have been told is the truth. I have tried to find a logical, scientific explanation and failed."

He researched the files of the Ministry of Defence until he found a ministry of Desence timil he found a report of a Meteor fighter crash in 1951. Flying Officer Raymond Thomas Norman, aged 33, from the Advanced Flying School, in trying to take off from what is now Teesside airport, crashed into the ground floor of the ground floor. of the west wing of the officers' mess, killing Flying Officer Norman. The

officers' mess is now the St George

# A mission to spread faith across the land

The main churches in Britain start a

decade of evangelism in the new year.

It is aimed at strengthening churches

and spreading the gospel, not just

increasing church membership. Not

all Christians, however, endorse the

campaign. Ruth Gledhill reports in

IN CHURCHES throughout churches is semantic: the the country, the focus of Pope began talk of a Decade worship this year will be as of Evangelisation in 1982 much on the Feast of the and proclaimed the Catholic Epiphany as on Christmas decade in 1988. The An-Day. Epiphany, 12 days after glican bishops at the 1988 Christmas, is the date chosen Lambeth Conference called by the main churches in Britain to launch the Decade 2,000th anniversary of of Evangelism or, in the case Christ's birth to be marked

of the Roman Catholics, the in a special way. The con-Decade of Evangelisation. In nearly every Anglican diocese, special services are sis, going beyond care and planned for the sixth of nurture to "proclamation January. In Guildford, a and service". The Bishop of vigil and celebration is Lichfield and chairman of planned in the cathedral the Church of England's previous night. In Win-Board for Mission and chester Cathedral, leaders of Unity, the Right Rev Keith the local Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and United Reformed Churches will sign a covenant to work more person-to-person way. closely together.

The Archbishop of Canter-bury, Dr Robert Runcie, set the tone for the decade in the Anglican church during his last presidential address at the General Synod last month. "The need for the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ is as clear as ever. There is much sin and much wickedness, which cries out for his healing and forgiving

The difference between the Catholic Decade and that being organised by other honesty with which he wres-

Lambeth Conference called for the last ten years to the dynamic missionary empha-

fashioned liberalism that is

increasingly under attack

from some evangelicals. Bishop Sutton said: "While I

do not agree with everything

the Bishop of Durham says I

do think we must respect the

another northern diocese. A Bradford diocesan survey on the decade has shown that the largest group who would accept labels in the church described themselves as "lib-Sutton, said: "Evangelism is the communicating of the good news of our Lord in a erals". The survey showed 81 per cent of the laity supported the decade, but I see evangelisation as applying the Christian faith to all most eschewed churchmanship labels, preferring to be thought of as "plain C of E". departments of life." One puzzle that surprised evangelical churchmen as Two Anglican dioceses launched their decades early, last summer. The Bishop of Doncaster, the Right Rev the decade approached has crease - 2 per cent - in church attendance in Dur-William Persson, said Shefham, a bastion of the oldfield diocese's decade was

encharist at Doncaster race-course. "We have appointed

an adviser in evangelism and

he is going round all our

the first of two articles The Bishop of Sheffield, That thesis is supported by the Right Rev David Lunn, said the idea came to him as the results of a survey in he considered what the church should do in the last decade of the century. He saw no reason to change plans made before the Lam-

> The Southwell diocese, in Nottinghamshire, launched its decade in July. The Rev Paul Morris, adviser in evangelism, said: "It was the 100year anniversary of a famous service in the Southwell minster." The hunch in-cluded a prayer vigil and a prayer card that has been

The Feast of the Epiphany is the day Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated to God, where Simeon described Jesus as "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people

Israel". Epiphany will also coincide this year with the Methodists' annual public commitment to their covenant with God, when they say together: "I freely and whole-heartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal."

Many Christians find it entier to avow their faith among like-minded people than to explain their lifestyle than to explain their messyle to others. Donald English, president of the Methodist Conference, said: "I think the crucial question is going to be the degree to which each Christian in this countries arise confedence in his or try gains confidence in his or her Christian lifestyle and is willing to tell other people why he or she lives in this particular way."

One critical voice has been that of the influential Rev Paul Hulme, minister of Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London. He said he was dubious about the decade. He wrote in the latest Methodist Recorder: "I must confess to feeling uneasy about the Decade of Evangelism. It is a high-sounding title, but what does it mean? What are we supposed to be doing that we are not doing already?

"If it is another attempt to remind us that we are not

cars." He said the word it to mean what they want it to mean: a "religious jamboree for happy Christians". The word had got into the hands of the wrong people, who think it is limited to a "fundamentalist view of Scripture and salvation" The decade is in danger of leaving people more con-fused than they are at the unrealistic to think there would be a mighty revival if people preached the "true" Gospel from the "true" Word.

The United Reformed Church has backed the decade. The Rev Bernard Thorogood, URC general secretary, said: "We believe there is a permanent calling of the people of God to witness to the great acts of God in Jesus Christ, and this God in Jesus Christ, and this involves all of us, not just the professionals." The Rev David Coffey, general secretary-elect of the Baptist Union and secretary for evangelism, said the Baptist church had adopted a "decade by tesses" cade by stages" approach.

Tomorrow: Non-Christian

**British Gas** 



The Pope giving his Christmas blessing: war in the Gulf would be "an adventure with no return"

### Pope appeals for peace in the Gulf

THE Pope yesterday urged shadows, "though they seem national leaders to realise that to be growing deeper on the a war in the Gulf would be "an horizon, cannot dim the light adventure with no return". In of Christ". his Christmas message he also called for a solution to the Christ is with the tormented Israeli-Palestinian conflict but nations of the Middle East", it was not clear if he was suggesting that it should be solution to the Israeli-Palestlinked to the Gulf crisis.

"For the area of the Gulf, we Land too has been awaiting wait with trepidation for the this peace for years: a peaceful threat of conflict to disappear. solution to the whole question May leaders be convinced that which concerns it, a solution war is an adventure with no which takes into account the return," he told thousands of people in St Peter's Square.

dialogue with respect for the Israel," he said, inalienable rights of people The Pope also identify and travel the paths of and political opposition" in understanding and peace," he said in the message televised live to 60 countries.

His call for "respect for the inalienable rights of people and nations" appeared to be a just sharing of the earth's reference to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, which the Pope has condemned. He said that the

Declaring that "the light of the Pope also called for a inian conflict. "The Holy legitimate expectations of the Palestinian people and of the "By reasoning, patience and people who live in the state of

> The Pope also said that "the is, it is possible to tumbled walls of ideological Eastern Europe bad left believers with the challenge to shun hedonism and materialism. Citing Africa's problems, he called for "a more

# TO SURVIVE GAS LEAKS,

ALL animals, including humans, have special senses to help them survive in their natural environment. Our senses may not be as acute as those of our fellow creatures, but they can still alert us to potential danger at home.

A gas leak is easily detected by human nostrils.

If you smell gas, your first instinct should be to use your eyes. Check to see if the gas has been left unlit, or a burner has gone out. See that doors and windows are open.

See that the gas is turned off at the meter.

See that nobody turns electrical switches on or off or touches the doorbell, or smokes.

Use your voice. Phone the gas emergency service straight away (the number is under Gas in the telephone directory). Don't leave it to someone else. No matter what time of day or night, one of our engineers will be round as fast as humanly possible. In the meantime, play safe.

Use your senses. It's only common sense.

#### Runcie denounces cult of violence

THE Archbishop of Canter-bury spoke out yesterday in the Middle East. "In such a against the glamorisation of war and the cult of violence encouraged by television.

Dr Robert Runcie said this year's Christmas celebration of peace was taking place with the shadow of war hanging over the Gulf

In his last Christmas Day termon at Canterbury cathedral before his retirement next month, he spoke of the temptation for individuals and nations to "glamorise violence as an instrument for righting wrongs and for making and restoring peace". He repeated his view that war in the Gulf could be justified only as a last resort.

At the end of a century in which war had cost millions of lives, it remained "strangely and powerfully seductive. Groups like the IRA continue to bathe violence in a romantic light, to propagate the view that only by adopting violent means can their ends be achieved.

"And mass entertainment panders to this cult of violence, bringing fighting and murder into our living rooms as a spectacle to be seen from our armchairs, and distancing violence from the pain, re-morse and grief which inevitably follow it

"Against the cult of violence, Christian faith and experience is bound to protest. The faith that takes in the stable of Bethlehem and the cross of Calvary is schooled to distrust raw power as an agent of any lasting good,"

The archbishop had a special messsage for the soldiers serving in the Gulf and the people of Kuwait. He said that within a few weeks there towards political violence.

fer and die. So, poignantly this Christmas, we remember our own young men and women serving in the forces.

pray also for the United Nations, that the fragile opportunity for creating 2 new world order of law and restraint may be upheld." Dr Runcie said the world was "uneasily poised fresh and alarming dangers and new possibilities that there could be for the first time an international order which can claim universal respect".

> Letters, page 9 Photograph, page 18

#### Ulster hope raised

CHURCH leaders in Northern Ireland yesterday welcomed the IRA's three-day Christmas ceasefire and said it gave hope of positive develop-

ments in 1991. The Most Rev Earnes, Church of Ireland primate, and the Most Rev Cahal Daly, his new Catholic counterpart, referred to the temporary cessation of violence in Christmas morning sermens at their Armagh cathedrals.

Archbishop Earnes said the province might be standing on the threshold of peace, bringing an end to the hatred and violence. Dr Daly said the ceaselire would be particularly welcome if it signalled a change in attitude on the part of the IRA and Sinn Fein



BRITISH GAS RECOMMENDS USING YOUR ANIMAL INSTINCTS.

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# Violence and dread of war bring gloom to Holy Land



mas in the birthplace of Christ was a joyous affair, with thousands thronging Manger Square in front of the Church of the Nativity. Yesterday Bethlehem and the entire Holy Land were sunk in deep gloom and apprehension, the Christmas festivities not only restricted for the third year run-ning by the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, but also overshadowed by the grim prospect of a Middle

What we need today is love on the eve of an imminent world said Archbishop Michel Sabbah, the Palestinian Roman Catholic patriarch, as he cele-brated midnight Mass. But there was little love in evidence as a handful of visitors, probably fewer than 200, sang carols in a rainswept Manger Square while

Christmas in Bethlehem has turned from joy to grief and foreboding, Richard Owen reports. Soldiers outnumber pilgrims and local Christians' hearts are heavy

heavily armed Israeli troops kept watch from surrounding rooftops case of intifada violend

This is the saddest, gloomiest Christmas I can remember," said Elias Freij, the long-serving Arab Mayor of Bethlehem, who can normally muster at least a spark of ebullience. "Every family here bears the scars of the intifada in the form of killed or wounded relatives or ruined businesses."

Church leaders again cancelled

all festivities except religious ceremonies, and Bethlehem's shops were closed. The town's 35,000 Arab Christians were, in any case, in no mood to put up lights or decorations to welcome the patriarch as he arrived from Jerusalem. Worshippers were outnumbered by soldiers, and the 14 Western choirs which used to hold carol services in Bethlehem were reduced to just one.

On everyone's mind, overshadowing the "glad tidings of great joy" announcing Christ's birth, was the grim warning by Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, that war was very close. In Nazareth, in Israel proper, the

filled with bell-ringing and carol singing as thousands of Arab Christians walked in procession to the Basilica of the Annunciation. But even here festivities were lowkey as church leaders emphasised the tense situation in their Christ-

mas sermons. In Bethlehem, Israeli forces sought to lighten the atmosphere by handing pink carnations to visitors after they had searched them with metal detectors for weapons and bombs.

However, Elias Rishmawi, a Palestinian chemist from nearby Beit Sahour, or Shepherd's Fields, produced a leaflet written at Christmas 1945, towards the end of the British mandate in Palestine. It said: "What kind of festive season can this be when our souls are sad, our families are

torn apart and a fire burns in our chest?" Mr Rishmawi added: "Nothing changes except the rulers." Gunfire crackled nearby: an Israeli patrol was chasing young Arab stone-throwers.

Archbishop Sabbah referred to "a situation in which our land is still dominated by injustice and fear as well as the desire for peace". In a Christmas message, he and other church leaders called on world leaders to "spare the region from devastating destruc-tion". The message said the Christian churches considered it their sacred duty to voice concern about human rights violations by Israeli troops in the occupied territories, and deplored the "pervasive mood of despair because of the considerable suffering and loss of life among Palestin-

Arabs". The statement

change the character of Jerusalem and to erode the centuries-old privileges and rights of the Christian churches by encroaching on church property and imposing

Because of the deteriorating situation, many Christian Arabs are leaving Israel and the West ak. In 1947 there were 150,000 Christians, mostly Arabs, in what was Palestine. Whereas the Muslim population has doubled and the Jewish population has in-creased sixfold, the number of Christian Arabs has decreased to 130.000 today.

"If we are not careful, the churches which commemorate Christ's birth and death will soon become museums," said Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, a leading archaeological historian.

Right-wing

Lebanese

militia shun

cabinet

Beirut - The hardline Christian Lebanese Forces militia has re-

national reconciliation on which it was offered only one seat. Its boycott could delay the im-plementation of a plan to end Lebanon's 15-year civil war (Ali

Omar Karami, the new prime

minister, appointed a range of

rival militia leaders to the 30-

member cabinet, which is to

implement the peace plan and

disband the militias. However, the

Lebanese Forces rejected the

a minister without portfolio, but

he will not take up his seat. Other

warlords such as Walid Jumblatt,

the Druze chief, and Nabih Berri,

the Arnal leader, were given similar posts. Sitting cabinet members such as Albert Mansour,

George Saadeh, Michel Sasin and

appointments as unbalanced. Samir Geagea, the Lebanese Forces commander, was named as

laber writes)

# Cheney and Powell argue against hasty use of force

From Susan Ellicott in Washington

THE two most senior military leaders of the United States have told President Bush that American forces will not be ready to launch a military attack on Iraq by January 15, the United Nations deadline authorising the use of force against lraq if it has not withdrawn from

The comments by Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, and General Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, were the latest sign that military officials are stepping up efforts to dissuade political leaders from launching an attack on Iraq until their forces are fully prepared.

They briefed Mr Bush for three hours on Christmas Eve at Camp David on the readiness and morale of American forces involved in Operation Desert Shield. Reports of the meeting suggest they advised Mr Bush to wait until the completion of a deployment of up to 200,000 troops between mid-January and mid-February.

Their discussions followed mixed signals,, - deliberate or unintentional - from the United

# Allies may **pull** envoys

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration is consulting allies on whether to wind down their embassies in Baghdad before January 15, the date after which the United Nations has authorised military action against lraq, if it has not withdrawn its forces from Kuwait. Officials said the embassies

would not be closed completely before January 15, but did not exclude the possibility that America and its partners could break diplomatic relations with Iraq en masse at some point after that. A senior state department of-

ficial said the embassies were performing important diplomatic functions, "but obviously as we approach the 15th we are going to have to ask ourselves what further In an interview on Christmas

Eve, the official said that, if direct talks between the United States and Iraq could not be arranged, the administration was considering other ways of convincing President Saddam Hussein that America was serious about going to war. He refused to elaborate but one likelihood would be more high-profile military exercises. He confirmed America would

---

seek more money from its allies early in the new year to offset both its huge military costs and the hardship of frontline states.

States to Baghdad over the past two weeks on the readiness of its troops for offensive action. Gen-eral Calvin Waller, the deputy commander of American forces in the Gulf, said last week they would not be fully prepared to launch an attack by the UN deadline. This week, The Washington Post quoted Pentagon officials as say-ing the United States has accelerated the development and deployment of several new weapons for potential use in a Gulf war, including an air-to-air missile capable of jamming electronic devices, and has stepped up production or modified other

General Waller's comments were in line with private assessments from other military officials but were widely regarded as undercutting the administration's strategy of keeping Iraq guessing about its plans and emphasising the importance of January 15.

arms for use in the desert.

Mr Bush said last weekend that American forces would be ready to react immediately if provoked by Iraq but left open the question of the readiness of the coalition forces for offensive action. Mr Cheney and General Powell returned at the weekend from their first joint visit to Saudi Arabia, after a review of war plans with commanders in the field and meetings with military and pol-Arabia, two key allies.

The meeting at Camp David punctuated a lull in diplomatic efforts by the United States and Iraq to resolve the Gulf conflict. Barring a diplomatic break-through, proposed high-level talks look increasingly unlikely to take place amid failure to agree on a date for talks between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and President Saddam Hussein. The Los Angeles Times quoted Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, on Monday as saying officials of his government were willing to meet the Bush administration on January 12. The White House wants the meeting by January 3.

Divided house: Parliament is not united behind the government's stance on the Gulf, Labour MPs Tam Dalyell and Harry Ewing have said in a telegram to Senator George Mitchell, leader of the Democrats in the US Senate (Nicholas Watt writes).

They told him: "Ted Heath's views are shared by many MPs in all parties. We believe the House of Commons should be consulted as you rightly wish Congress to be consulted before horrendous war." They sent the telegram on Christmas Eve and yesterday Mr Dalyell said the stakes were so high that Parliament should be recalled at the earliest

Shamir warning, page 1



Pitching in: comedian Bob Hope, right, with the former Cincinnati Reds baseball star, Johnny Bench, commenting in Saudi Arabia yesterday on their Christmas entertainment programme for US troops. The media have been barred from performances

#### Santa flies good cheer to the Rats

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN A swirl of dust, Santa Claus dropped in by helicopter yesterday in Saudi Arabia with Christmas presents for Britain's Desert Rats. And according to tradition, officers of the 7th Armoured Brigade served their soldiers a Christmas dinner of turkey and plum pudding, took over guard duty and scrubbed out the latrines.

The commanding officer, Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, had a Christmas message for President Saddam Hussein. "I think they (the Iraqis) understand the psychological warfare that is going on and they are quite certain that ... we're prepared to go to war if

essary," he told reporters. While burly soldiers draped in festive tinsel took turns to sit on Santa's knee to receive Monopoly sets, cheese biscuits, books and mince pies, it was still business as usual as the allied forces continued their build-up.

Amid the festivities, convoys of trucks and armoured vehicles streamed towards the border with Kuwait, seized by Iraq nearly five months ago.

Some American forces have been placed on a higher state of alert as a precaution in case Iraq chooses the Christmas holiday to launch a pre-emptive strike.

British troops, wearing the distinctive emblem of a rat for their part in the second world war North African desert campaign. have received 100 tons of Christmas cards and presents donated by the British Legion of exservicemen, the Salvation Army and supermarkets.

"To a soldier, from two old codgers with no son of their own," read one card. "Thank you for your help - a Kuwaiti family," Letters, page 9 read another sent from St Johns Wood in London. Sometimes, the goodwill went the other way. One troop of Royal Engineers sent a teddy bear and Christmas card to Max, aged four-and-a-half, from from cerebral palsy.

On Christmas Eve, in camps across eastern Saudi Arabia, soldiers gathered to sing carols under the stars."It was very poignant," said one tank com-



Cordingley: issued Christmas warning to President Saddam

On board the US Navy hospital ship Mercy in the Gulf, Santa appeared on a cargo dolly decorated like a sleigh. Pulling the dolly were seven men and women wearing cardboard reindeer

Elsewhere in Saudi Arabia, US forces attended religious services behind closed doors to avoid offending Muslims but many openly displayed Christmas trees.

Queen's speech, page 11 | the times. We cannot manage it so country."

### **Baghdad Christians** pray for peace

From JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

"PRAY that the Prince of Peace will rescue us from the scourge of war" - those were the words of Baghdad's leading Assyrian Cath-Preston in Sussex who suffers olic cleric, invoking his congregation in the packed pews of St Mary's Church to hold true to God and country.

He spoke the Christmas Eve words just after the last strains of "Auld Lang Syne", sung in Arabic by the choir, faded in the church one of many in the city filled over the two-day Christmas boliday for Christians in this overwhelmingly Muslim country.

According to Iraqi officials, there are about 100 Christian churches in Baghdad. Most of Irag's one million Christians went to Mass or Protestant services, taking a brief respite from the looming spectre of war. Even Tariq Aziz, the foreign minister and a Christian, apparently attended church. The Christmas respite was

likely to be temporary for most Iraqis, Muslims or Christians. The men at St Mary's looked grim, determined, while some women sat quietly, chins quivering, as they listened to the choir. Candles and incense were lit by

parishioners, and altar boys passed around a collection plate which was full to overflowing when it reappeared at the altar. One parishioner, Tariq al-Rahsha, said his family began preparing for Christmas early to get in enough food for a pleasant dinner - but it still did not begin to rival last year's feast. "We spread the feast out across the floor last year and sat in a circle but as you can see, we can only eat

from a small table this time. It is

good with the shortages."

After lunch, Mr al-Rahsha and his wife and four children visited relatives in another apartment in Baghdad and planned later on a Michigan in the United States.

No presents were exchanged this year, he said - again because of the situation. "Everyone was told to bring things they thought they would like to share with everyone, like their voices or a guitar to play music, nothing

But, he added proudly, "I did manage to buy my youngest son, who is 15, a new pair of trousers and our daughter a new blouse." He said he had paid 120 dinars for the two items - about half his monthly wage. After dinner, in his study, Mr al-

Rahsha turned grimly, like all Iraqis this holiday season, to the coming storm. "I am a good Christian and do not like war, but history is on our side and we will fight to keep Kuwait," he said. Did war concern him? "If there

is a war we are ready. Kuwait is Iraqi since a long time. Jesus Christ, he is the man of peace, he came for peace and we like peace - now everybody is praying for peace. In the next days

this is what we will pray for - for the US government to decide for Mr al-Rahsha's son Ragid, a veterinary student aged 21 and a reservist in the army, entered the room and was asked what he believed he was fighting for. "My mother," came the reply. "She really wants peace, but if there is

war she is happy we take part. And

if we die, we die for her and our

Ali Khalil retained their seats, Other appointees were said to have been implicated in atrocities during the civil war. Children fly to

### **Britons in Gulf**

Hundreds of British families in the Gulf have ignored Foreign Office advice to send dependants home, and many have brought children out from Britain to join them for the Christmas holiday (Andrew McEwen writes).

Their action has angered others in the Gulf, who feel it has worsened flight congestion, making it difficult to obtain a homeward booking before the United Nations deadline of Janaury 15 for Iraq to leave Kuwait. The cong tion is partly artificial, because a high proportion of those who book

fail to show up. The mood of pessimism in London and Washington, where most diplomats believe a conflict is more likely with Iraq than it was ten days ago, does not seem to be shared by Britons living in the Gulf. Even some British diplomats have disregarded the Foreign Office advice on dependants.

ILE

CAP

#### Howitzer death

Eastern Sandi Arabia - One of five soldiers, who was injured when a 105 mm howitzer exploded during a training accident last Thursday, has died, bringing the death toll in Operation Desert Shield to 81, the American military's central command announced. The soldiers were from the 3/320th Field Artillery of the 101st Airborne Division. The cause of the accident is being investigated. The dead man had been in a coma. (AP)

#### Plea for hostages

Beirut - Relatives and friends of two hostages held in Lebanon wished them a merry Christmas and said in letters published in Beirut newspapers they hoped for their release. The letters were addressed to the British journalist, John McCarthy, aged 34, spending his fifth year as a hostage, and American journalist, Terry Anderson, aged 43. This Christmas was his sixth in captivity. (Reuter)

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# **Amsterdam cuts** aid after military coup in Surinam

overthrew the elected government of the former Dutch colony in South America after a dispute between its president and long-time military chief. There were no reports of with Colonel Bouterse after Surinamese official said that ently was bloodless, two former Surinamese officials now

The Netherlands yesterday condemned the coup and The Dutch foreign ministry gave a warning to the country's military leaders not to use force in the future.

All telephone and telex communications with Surinam appeared to have been cut yesterday after Monday's coup. Attempts to contact the capital, Paramaribo, from neighbouring French Guiana and Venezuela were fruitless.

The whereabouts of President Ramsewak Shankar were not known. It was not known mer Surinamese diplomat livwhether he or other members of the civilian government

had been placed under arrest. The military chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Desi Bouterse, line with its "constitutional had earlier resigned, raising responsibility".

SURINAM's armed forces speculation that he would try to seize control of the mineral-

high-ranking Surinamese of-

ficial who had been in touch shooting and the coup appar- the coup said the military the army had promised to acted after the government down. The colonel led a military coup that toppled an elected government in 1980 November 1987, which Mr Shankar's Front for Democracy and Development party won by a landshide. Relations between the government and Colonel Bouterse had been strained ever since Mr Shankar began a five-year term in

> the armed forces, Lieutenant Ivan Graanoogst, announced the coup on television late on Monday, according to a foring in a nearby country. statement saying that in taking control the army was acting in

The former diplomat quoted Lieutenant Graanoogst as saying that a curfew was in effect and urging his compatriots to remain calm.

In Amsterdam, the former form an interim government in the coming week that would organize free elections within 100 days. The Amsterdam foreign

"the undemocratic seizure of power by the Suriserious blow to the process of consolidation of a democratic Dutch government has decided to suspend development co-operation aid with Surinam until further notice".

The Netherlands, which granted Surinam independence in 1975, agreed to provide about \$100 million (£53 million) of aid a year. It suspended aid in 1982 after 15 opposition leaders were killed in army custody under a previous regime headed by West helps Moscow recapture its glitter

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOR the first time in over 70 years of strict communist rule, a huge Christmas tree adorned Moscow's otherwise drab city centre to lend a Western-style festive air to

Western capitalism, too, played its part. General Electric, the US company with long experience of lighting the national Christmas tree in Washington, laid on a similar spectacle in Moscow's GUM department store, complete with a short carol service.

Most Russian Christians celebrate Christmas in two weeks' time, following the old Orthodox calendar. But Christmas was an of-

ficial holiday yesterday for the first time in the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. However, the holiday mood was marred by tension

and speculation that Moscow

was planning a crackdown

against the republics. As part of their move to leave the Soviet Union, the three republics declared both Christmas Day and Christmas Eve official holidays.



### to end state of war

Taiwan

Taipei - Taiwan will formally end its state of war with China before May, removing an important obstacle to closer ties with Peking and further democratic reform on the island, President Lee Teng-hui

said yesterday.
But in a sign of continuing pressure on the Nationalist government, about 10,000 opposition supporters marched here to demand even swifter change.

President Lee said the Nationalists would before May rescind a 42-year-old emergency declaration issued during the civil war and complete a process of constitutional reform. "We hope that in the shortest period of time, that is to say, before May next year, we will declare an end to the period of com-munist rebellion," he told the National Assembly.

The reforms would help to set the stage for the eventual reunification of Taiwan with mainland China and meet growing demands for democracy, Mr Lee said.

Provisions under the declaration, issued just before the Nationalist government lost the war and fled to Taiwan in 1949, give sweeping powers to the presidency and freeze in office hundreds of ageing legslators elected in China.

"If we do not return to a and strengthen the operation hard to establish a foundation for our country's further dev-elopment," be said yesterday.

Oligarchy ends

Mogadishu - With rebels closing in on the capital, Somalia has legalised oppo-sition parties and ended 17 years of one-party rule, Abdikassim Salad Hassan, the interior minister, said a new law would allow parties to contest an election early in 1991. Dissidents dismissed the move as a trick. (Reuter)

Speaking before the Congress of People's Deputies on Saturday, he had accused certain foreign enterprises of close to economic sabotage. Yesterday he said it was impossible to return to the past, either in the Soviet Union or globally, and added Union or globally, and added he had not meant to accuse the majority of forcing the newsmajority of foreign enter-prises. He welcomed international aid, and said most

countries were acting well. On Monday, Washington had challenged his remarks as unfounded and inaccurate, and expressed concern about a return to outdated and inflam-

KGB chief

tempers

attack on

aid donors

From Our Foreign Staff

IN MOSCOW VLADIMIR Kryuchkov, the KGB chief, qualified remarks he had made at the weekend

accusing the West of lacing food aid with radioactive

contaminants. He said he had

been misunderstood and that

his statement did not signify a

return to a Cold

matory rhetoric. • BERLIN: Germans have given the Red Cross at least DM 40 million (£13.86 million) to alleviate shortages in the Soviet Union, Prince Botho zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, the national Red Cross director, said. (Reuter)



Kryuchkov: denies return to Cold War mentality

Bribery scandal Tokyo - Kazuya Ishibashi, ister, admitted to police that activities which he said were be received 300 million yen (£1.2 million) from two people involved in a bribery scandal over a new golf course project in Chiba prefecture, Japanese

Joy in Hanoi Hanei - Crowds scrambled to attend midnight Mass here in one of the biggest demonstra-tions of Catholic religious fervour in communist Vietnam for years, witnesses said. Most people took Christmas as a holiday. Streetcorner speakers blared Victnamese renderings of Jingle Bells and

Guerrilla truce

Silent Night. (AFP)

Mexico City - The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, El Salvador's left-wing rebel group, has declared a nine-day holiday truce, stopping a month-long offensive. However, government forces launched an operation against the rebels last Thursday. (AP)

#### Snowball ban

Islamabad — Throwing snow-balls, loud singing and taking photographs of women have been banned by the magistrate of the Pakistan hill resort of Murree, after complaints about snowball attacks by tourists. The measures will remain in force for two months. Murree is currently snowed under. (Reuter)

### Tirana refuses to postpone election

From REUTER IN TIRANA

ALBANIA's communist lead- day after President Alia, ership turned down a request responding to pro-democracy from the country's first oppo- protests by students, said he sition party to postpone a general election scheduled for February 10, Tirana radio reported yesterday.

The new Albanian Democratic party appealed last week remaining until the election for a postponement of two to were long enough for parties to three months to give it time to organise. But the radio said the przesidium of the people's assembly had decided there was "no objective reason" to postpone the poll.

A group of Christians, outlawed along with other religious believers under the stalinist and atheist system created by Enver Hoxha, the former leader, announced the formation of a second opposition party.

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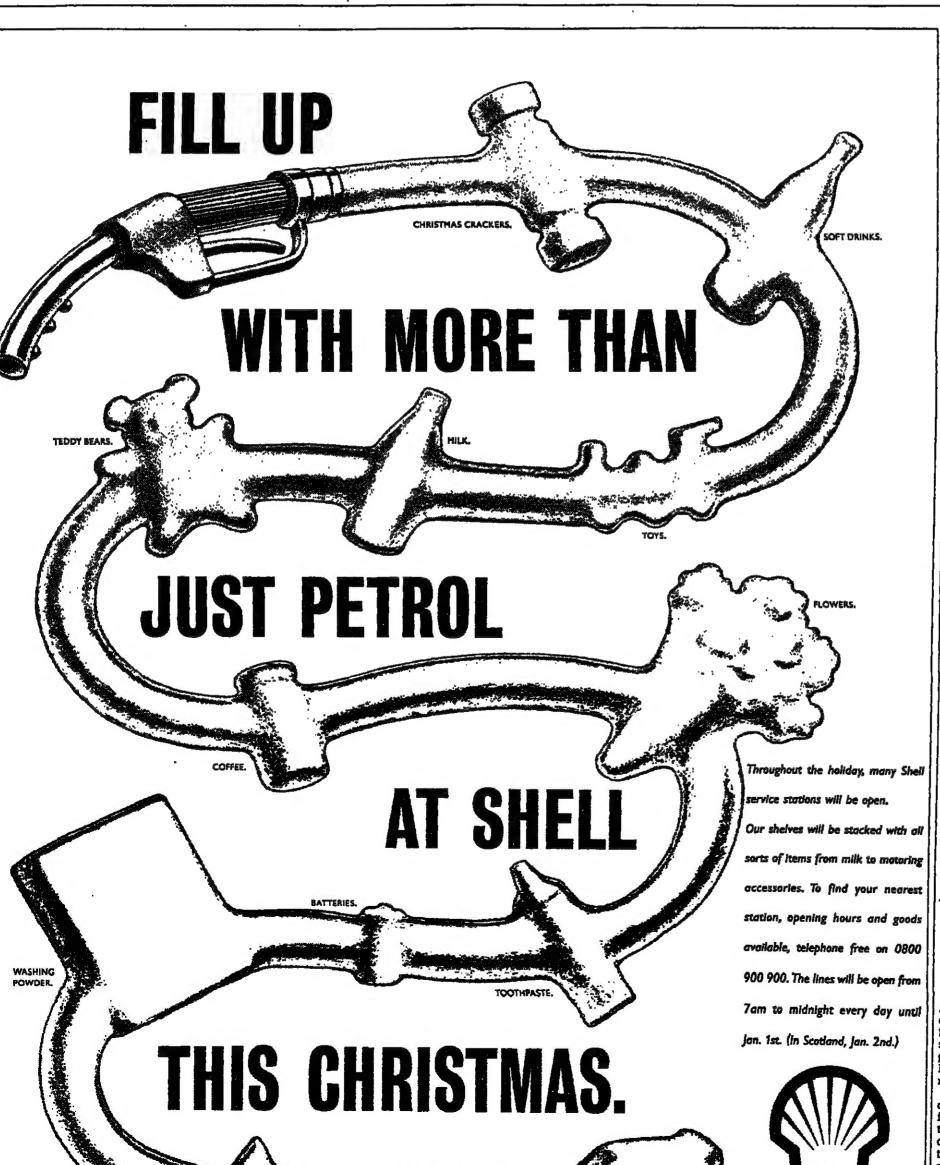
Father Simon Jubani, Albania's leading Catholic activist, said he and other Christians would set up the Christian Democratic Party. The Albaformed earlier this month, a into summer," he said.

would allow independent parties to be formed.

Sihat Tozaj, the secretary of the praesidium, was quoted by the radio as saying the 40 days put up candidates. Since no party had yet launched its campaign, he said, all were starting from the same base.

The Democratic Party, however, has complained that it is denied access to the communist-controlled media. Slogans of the ruling (communist) Party of Labour are prominently displayed in every town and village.

• First service: Father Jubani yesterday conducted the first Christian Mass in Albania for 23 years in a graveyard in the northern city of Shkoder. Almost 10,000 people attended the midnight service. "It is nian Democratic Party was like winter suddenly turning



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Juerrilla truce

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# Ceausescu's dying son protests he is revolution scapegoat

grace, Romania's "crown prince", the son of the executed tyrant Nicolae Ceausescu, is a broken man. Nicu Ceausescu, aged 40, is serving a 20-year sentence for "incitement to extremely grave murder" for his part in the death of 89 people killed in his fiefdom, the Transylvanian town of Sibiu, during the 1989 Romanian revolution, in which his parents were sum-marily tried and shot on

Christmas Day.

Terminally ill, slurring his words and chain-smoking, Nicu Ceausescu claimed in an interview on Christmas Eve in the hospital wing of the in-famous Jilava jail, just south of Bucharest, that he had a great regret: "I will die here."
The interview was conducted in the presence of his lawyer, his doctor and the chief guard of the prison medical wing.

Ceausescu asserted he was not guilty of ordering anyone to fire on civilians during the revolution, that he had been made a scapegoat, and that he had long opposed his parents'

prison, wondering why."

He claimed that, before fleeing Sibiu, he gave orders for army and Securitate troops

Socialism which leads to it.

He said that the idea of demolishing much of the old city had been that of a fawning not to fire on revolutionary demonstrators but these had would not say by whom.

a tearaway and petty tyrant, and later a womaniser and drunkard. In an interview Romanian Olympic gymnast, claimed that her daughter had been dominated "body and soul" by Ceausescu and that he had had one of her finger- He mused: "An enemy of the nails pulled out after she people then as now." refused to go along with one of his sexual demands. Throughout the interview, Ceausesco refused to be drawn on the



Nicolae Ceausescu: "said Nicu was people's enemy" saying that there were "a lot of

legends" about him. League and was party first just because they were my secretary in Sibin, 160 miles parents. Romania has now north-west of Bucharest, at the time of the revolution Ceausescu, who had been apprehended on December 22

last year. He vigorously denies that he was trying to escape. If that had been the case, "I would not have been driving good idea to try to meet him and the new government.

at least a decade he had my father and Gorbachev. My opposed his father's policies and because he criticised his Romania would not do just parents' actions had effectively been exiled to provin- The consequence was that the

spouses and children gath-

ered around the tree on

Christmas Eve in the grand

living room to sing Oh

Tannenbaum it was hard to

believe that the family had

endured decades of separa-

tion during the 40-year division of Germany.

the sorrow and fear that

had kept them apart for years but now bound them

closer together at their first

Christmas in their re-

The story of the Wolters

family, which had gathered

in the house of the oldest brother, Hans-Georg, aged

55, near Frankfurt, almost

reads like the history of the

country: one, yet divided. "Even one year ago, we

couldn't imagine that we

unified country.

But their faces hinted at

A year after the Ceausescus were executed in the Romanian revolution, their jailed son, Nicu, tells Tim Judah how he tried to curb their excesses

cial Sibiu. He said that there. Soviet role in the revolution had been a "family rupture" in 1980 and a "political rupture" described measures, such as in 1984. "I told my parents that people were suffering as far back as 1970. From a revolution, to back his claim. political point of view, it was a

generation struggle."

Because he had disagreed with his parents, Ceausescu denied that Sibiu had been the training ground to groom a successor. Rather, he claimed he had never discussed the matter with his parents and that he had been "pushed away to Sibiu". He declared: "Who wants to leave their homes and friends?" Also he denied that he had been preparing to succeed his par-ents, as "I did not want this".

Citing an example of opposition to their policies, he said he had been against their destruction of much of old policies. "What is certain is Bucharest and putting in its that I had to be convicted," he place the city's gargantuan, said. "The authorities are still unfinished House of the afraid of me ... but I'm left People and the 2½-mile here, an innocent man in Boulevard of the Victory of

politician who had suggested that the Ceausescus' political been countermanded. He careers would be incomplete without a lasting memorial in From his teens, Ceausescu stone. Ceausescu recounted gained the reputation of being that he had taken a stand against the demolition of a particularly beautiful and historic church. He said: "I told earlier this year, the mother of them that if they knocked it Nadia Comaneci, the former down I would turn cannon on the House of the People." He said that his parents had responded to this by calling him an "enemy of the people".

> usescu said his father knew only about 50-60 per cent, "maybe less", of what had been happening in the Romania he ruled. He said: "He was surrounded by sycophants. In order to maintain their privileges and power, they told my father that everything he did was good and they agreed with every-thing he said. No one told him the truth, so from this point of view it was a dictatorship."

Ceausescu claimed, how-Valentin and sister Zoia be had tried to "explain that things were not always as he had been told ... but he (his father) could not believe me .. after all he was hearing se things from ministers". He would not comment on

his emotions concerning his parents' executions. However, he did say: "It is one thing to be part of the family, but another to make policies. They should have been made to explain what they did and

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"somewhat surprised" by the revolution that ended his father's 24-year rule, but it was "logical" that he should have to Bucharest but across the border. It would have been replaced. He was a convinced communist and he easy to leave". He said he had was stubborn. All the others known President Iliescu in the from the old guard in the past and thought it would be a former socialist countries had been replaced.

nd the new government.

"It was probably a matter of conflicting ambitions between father wanted to show that what Gorbachev wanted."

brated at home ... every-thing was so chaotic then,"

said sister Lore, aged 47, who lives in Dresden. "Now we all live in the

same country." The five

Wolters siblings - one

sister was unable to attend

the reunion - grew up in Dresden, where their father

practised law and their

mother gave piano lessons.

Hans-Georg fled to West Berlin in 1959. His sister

Renate, now aged 54, and her husband followed to the

West in 1961, only months

before the Berlin Wall was built. The others, Ulrike,

Lore and Hartmut, stayed in East Germany. "I am so

glad you are all here,"

Hans-Georg said. "It took a

Christmas bangover, page 8

long time to get here."

Reunited family

hail year of unity

From A Correspondent in Frankfurt

WHEN the two brothers and two sisters, their the

# was "instrumental" and he

troop movements taken by the Kremlin at the time of the "Changes there should have been, but they should and could have happened peace-fully." Asked whose fault it was that they had not, Ceausescu said forcefully: "Not mine." Asked if he

thought it was his parents'

described measures, such as

fault, he replied: "Maybe so." Ceausescu has appealed against his sentence. It was legally "not correct" that the charge of "complicity to geno-cide" was changed at the moment of sentencing. But he was not particularly hopeful that his appeal would succeed. Was be prepared to fight his diseases and his legal case? Laughing, he said: "I shall

have to think about it." Leading article, page 9



Ceausescu, the son of the executed Romanian dictator, Nicolae, pleading his case during his interview on Christmas Eve in Jilava prison, near Bucharest, where he is serving a 20year sentence for his part in the deaths in Sibiu of 89 people during the 1989

that he is terminally ill, suffering from cirrhosis of the liver caused by hepatitis, a varicosed oesophagus and depression. She believes that he could suffer a potentially fatal haemorrhage at any time and that the prison hospital does not have the necessary

save his life or treat him properly. "He vomits three or four times a day and has lost 22 kg (3st 6lb) since he was arrested." She asked that her name not be published, citing the fear of death threats for looking after one of

#### Milosevic trounces opposition in Serbia

From Associated Press IN BELGRADE

SERBIA'S communists, led by Siobodan Milosevic and recently renamed Socialists, crushed all opposition in the republic's first free vote in five decades, winning 194 seats in the 250-seat parliament, the results showed yesterday. Serbia, the largest republic,

and Montenegro, the smallest, were the only two of Yugoslavia's six republics to elect communist governments. The result is likely to keep tensions high with the other four regions, where centre-right or nationalist parties triumphed. The opposition, which formed a coalition on the eve of the second-round ballot, won 48 seats in the onechamber parliament. Eight other seats went to indepen-

dent candidates. Stanko Radmilovic, the Serbian prime minister, was ousted in the second round. Dragoljub Micunovic, of

the Democratic Party, who defeated a Socialist candidate in Belgrade, said the oppo-sition should look into alleged irregularities before declaring the elections fair and honest. He also complained they did not get enough coverage from



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**Martin Jacques** 

hat is the most talked-about issue this Christ-mas? It might be the Gulf. It could be the darkening skies over the Soviet Union. It might even, at a pinch, be the likely outcome of the next election. But my preferred candidate is something completely different: working time and leisure time. That might seem a little odd, but think of the endless hours of discussion about the nature of the Christmas break - joined this year by the debate on Sunday opening.

We are now in the midst of what has become an extraordinary holiday. Once, not so long ago, the festive season was short and sharp. The holiday was confined to Christmas Day (only after midday in Scotland) and Boxing Day. New Year's Day was a working day (though not in Scot-land, of course). Then Christmas slowly extended its tentacles. No one planned the Great Festive Sleep. It just grew like Topsy and ventually became the norm.

Yet, if the issue had ever been debated rationally I doubt whether we would have ended up in this mess. The majority, it seems, now have an enforced holiday lasting at least 11 days, at a time of the year when it is almost impossible to get away and when the weather is at its worst. Furthermore, there is relatively

I was forcibly reminded of this when looking through the local paper. Throughout the whole perlod, all the sports centres, swimming pools and libraries will be closed. Two reasons were given by the leader of the Labour council which prides itself on the delivery of first class services: first, it was second, there was no demand at this time of year. I will return to the first argument later, but the second is patently absurd. This is the one time of the year when such facilities should be open. Changes in the pattern of our holidays require commensurate changes in the provision of services.

ngly unstoppable trend towards Sunday opening raises similar ues. Three factors have pushed the process along. First, there has been the decline of the old working week, and its replacement by a positive patchwork of workng practices. As a result, the more flexible terms. Further, the fact that most women work as well as shop, has increased the pressure for longer shopping bours, includ-ing Sunday opening.

Second, the idea of Sunday as the sabbath has declined as society has grown steadily more secular in Sunday has traditionally been a boring day with limited possi-bilities from which to choose. I find the argument for a more libertarian conception of Sunday overwhelming. If people want more choice on a Sunday then so be it. I say this with two reservations.

There is a strong argument that Sunday should not simply become like any other day of the week, one-seventh of a seven-day week economy, subject to the same levels of congestion and general hassle. Yet personally I doubt whether this will happen. Cultural habits are too deeply ingrained. Most people will still not work on a Sunday. They may want more choice, but that does not mean they want it to be like Monday.

The second reservation is a more serious problem. One of the most vocificous opponents of Sunday opening is the shop-workers union, Usdaw. Its argument is that Sunday opening will mean many shop assistants, who are low-paid and enjoy little bargaining power, will face a serious deterioration in their working conditions, with many in practice being forced to work on Sundays. This raises some important issues in relation to both the Christmas break and Sundays.

Sunday opening in principle, though one can appreciate the motives of a weak union representing a very weak group of workers. Less forgivable is the attitude of the Labour party which has quietly gone along with the Usdaw position, but without the ame justification. It has settled for the knee-jerk response which invariably puts the interests of the producer before those of the consumer. For a party trying to modernise its image, this is at best intellectually lazy.

wards a society that is more consumer-driven, is more flexible in its conception of time, and in which leisure and services assume the starting-point when it comes to the future of Sunday or the provision of services at Christmas. But equally, we must avoid creating a society in which the only voice that matters is that of the consuming majority. The consumer society must not lead to the tyranny of the consumer. The rights of minorities, in this case the low-paid service providers, must be protected. Reasonable hours of work and decent working conditions are not simply a problem for the unions or the individual, but a legitimate responsibility of a humane, flexible society.

The Labour party may be approaching the problem from the wrong end, but those who would simply deregulate and create a society run according to the law of the jungle, in which the strong overpower the weak, are equally wide of the mark.

...and moreover

### Craig Brown

EXCLUSIVE: A reminder of the events of 1991 (Part Two). July 1: David Lynch's longsited sequel to Twin Peaks hits the television screens. Thin Cliques has moved from North America to Downing Street, England. We got rid of all the fattics — Howe, Lawson, Ingham — in a final shoot-out," explains Lynch, "and now everyone on the street is under twelve stone. 8th: The next volume of Mr Tony Benn's long-running memoirs is published. The 600-page A Fairly Normal Morning covers the most crucial events in the internal politics of the Labour party in the period from 8.30am to 10.15am on Tuesday, 14th September. The first entry begins, "Dear Diary: Got up, adjusted my TGWU tie, made sure the tape-recorder was working, went over to my diary and wrote, "Dear Diary: Got up, adjusted my TGWU tie, made sure the tape-recorder was working, went over to my diary and wrote..." 19th: Mr Mich-sel Winner, internationally reas Death Wish 1, Kill! Kill! Kill!, Death Wish 2, Kill Some More, Death Wish 3, Kill Some More Again" and Death Wish 4 announces that he is increasingly concerned about violence on the streets, and is to fund a working-party to look into pos-

August 5: Ms Muffet is awarded an undisclosed out-of-court settlement because of severe psychological stress resulting from an encounter with a predatory insect. 14th: After many months searching, Mrs Thatcher is said to have found the ideal house for her retirement. Within easy reach of the Palace of Westminster, and with a garden large enough to accommodate a golf-course for Sir Denis, it is conveniently situated at the end of the Mall. September 3rd: Tackled in the Commons over his apparent ignorance of the workings of the European economy, Mr Neil Kinnock appears rattled. "Of course I know what an ecu is," he replies, "It's what comes back at you when you yodel in the Valleys." 23rd: Pop star Madonna appears stark naked on stage. Her aides dismiss 'cal disorders occasioned by criticism of the act. "She is not inadequate flood warnings.

so much appearing stark na-ked," they explain, "as indulg-ing in a brilliantly ironic statement about the overall concept of appearing stark naked." October 15th: In a surprise announcement, David Owen makes public his decision to split with himself, reducing his total party membership to a total of one half person. Both arms, a leg, a nostril and the majority of his neck plan to go their own way. "Our new party will be leaner but fitter." declares his remaining nostril. 27th: Sir Kingsley Amis begins a strenuous round of promotional lunches for his new novel, Women Aren't Like Blokes More's the Pity. In an interview at the Connaught with a renowned literary editor, he addresses what he sees as the principal dilemma of the modern novelist: "Should we plump for the Château Lafite or the Château Ducru-Beaucaillou?" he worries, "And is one allowed the steak and kidney pud and the roast lamb? Tricky November 5th: More literary news is made when the surprise bestseller is another anthology from the Oxford University Press. The Oxford Book of Blank Pages is a collection of the blank pages to be found before and after the main texts of authors as diverse as William Golding and Montaigne. There are five blank pages from a minor novel by Muriel Spark, and eight from two poetry collections of the late Philip Larkin. A further anthology of the shorter blank spaces between famous chapters is planned for the spring. 26th: Following last year's surprise inclusion of Mr Jeffrey Bernard in Who's Who, the new Dictionary of National Biography awards a characteristically generous entry to the late Dr Bodkin Adams. "His services to his patients knew no bounds", it runs, "and there was nothing he would not give to those whom he diagnosed as poorly". December 9th: The Liberal Democrats have a new leader, but nobody notices. 14th: In an outAnne McElvoy sees 1991 as the year east Germans will tire of being told how grateful they should be, and the westerners tire of being nice to the east

# Germany's Christmas hangover

Shoppers finally knew that the contorted, uneasy half-kingdom of the German Democratic Republic really had nullified itself and joined the west when the decorative Christmas angels on display in the stores of east Berlin were allowed to introduce themselves as such, sparing us their previous atheistic coyness as "Winged End of Year Figures". In this and other respects, the two souls in the German breast have moved a little closer together this Christmas.

For east Germany, this was the first proper Deutschmark Christmas, and thankfully it was more dignified than the last, which saw its citizens quening patiently in west Berlin supermarkets to pay for the few stocking-fillers their DM100 Welcome Money bought them. Their stony faces betrayed that the 28-year assault on their dignity since the Wall was built had only been fully grasped when it was over. Hard to forget among the scenes of welcoming revelry was the sight of a weary east German housewife reciving the full ire of a west Berlin shopper because she was clogging up the supermarket aisles. "When the wall was closed we were exotic to you," she replied, "Now we are just poor."

One year on, east Germans are no longer poor but are even further from being exotic. No need to embark on consumerist pilgrimages to the west these days. In the renamed and restocked stores of east Berlin, Leipzig and Chemnitz, the glittering prizes of the pagan feast lay outspread last week, but the shoppers gathered around the cheapest of electrical goods, queuing patiently (as the east Germans used to do endlessly) to reach marked-down junk items that still seem essential to the well-being of those deprived of them by lack rather than common

before the redundancy notices drop onto the doornests in the new year, before the longed-for market economy bares its teeth as well as its smile. Prosperity, the hope of achieving it and the fear of being left behind in the race towards it dominate the conversation as east German families gather this week. The most popular Christmas card in the east this year was an imitation 500 Deutschmark note. After 1989 (the year of the

revolution) and 1990 (the year of reunification), the most heartfelt wish of Germany in 1991 is to drop out of the world's headlines for a while, to concentrate on coming what Germany has rarely been this century: just another European country. But there is a long way to go. The lugubrious Green MP Joschka Fischer unleashed loud murmurs of agreement when he said on the eve of unity that he was postpon-ing any personal celebration until well into the 21st century, because only then would be know whether the event was one to rejoice at or one to set his hair on end. So much of 1990 was devoted to

the mechanics of welding back together two completely different states after 40 years apart that neither side has yet had the leisure to grasp what it is like to live in the enlarged, unequal new Germany. The coming year will show whether Germans east and west are willing to make the sacrifices ssary to make reunification a part of daily life rather than a mere mantra-like ode to oneness intoned by politicians whenever awkward questions about the cost and risks are raised.



itation 500 Deutschmark note was this year's most popular Christmas card, as millions faced unemploym

The three months that have elapsed since reunification on October 3 have been spent on the hold button. During that time, Chancellor Kohl cannily decided that nothing should be allowed to interfere with his smooth progress to re-election, and until it was assured, painful decisions were suspended: unemployment, for instance, was disguised behind the flimsy cuphemism of "Short time working - zero hours".

The interregnum ends on New Year's Eve. January 1 is the date favoured by most large enterprises for rationalisation measures based on mass redundancies. Short-time working is set to become no-time working across the stricken agri-cultural swathes of the north and the obsolete industrial belts of the south. Unemployment in a working population of 12 million has every prospect of comfortably exceeding two million as the subsidies provided by Bonn for this economic panacea dry up.

7 ith the Soviet Union on the brink of turmoil and the other economies of central Europe unendowed by the fiscal fairy godmother that has rescued east Germany from the chaos of socialist planning, the fears in the five new Lander pale in comparison. But East Germans - unlike their neighbours in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary are not nourished by the sustain-ing power of belief in a national identity. The communists elsewhere tried to suppress it - and thus watered the plant they sought to wither. In the GDR they tried to promote it in the formula of "two German nations, one bourgeois, one socialist, which was so tortuous that even Erich Honecker's parroting diplomats had trouble remembering the official

explanation behind it. This has the result of making many east Germans suspicious of rhetoric and quickly sated with the Einheitsosse (unity gravy) in which political discourse is currently drenched. For the majority of those too young to remember pre-war Germany,

than the wallet they appreciate the small, practical liberties and the simple luxury of choice more than the grand freeing of the German spirit.

This year has brought a wel-come collapse for a weary people into the strong arms of successful capitalism — with the snave guarantee of Adenauer's promised No experiments" - after 40 years in the human laboratory of Marxparent, Chancellor Kohl has to promote virtue around the hearth this Christmas. He must find a way to sell patience to the frus-trated east and sharing to the grudging west. His current strategy to remonstrate in fatherly fashion that the good of the German family is more important than the Christmas demands of the two sides as Ossi-child clamours for higher wages, while Wessi-child pules about not eating up his tax rises.

But after Twelfth Night he will let the brats whinge unattended and run a low-wage economy in the east while hiding tax increases to finance unity behind environmental and transport levies in the west. As for the green Herr Fischer, this means treating the state merger of last October as a symbolic rather than practical unification for the time being, with a tacit agreement that the two siblings will not get along until they are older.

Chancellor Kohl's fondness for the rhetoric of unity is often stressed at the expense of his pragmatic streak. He has probably realised that 1991 will be the year that east Germany grows tired of being told how grateful it should be for the Deutschmark and reunification, and the year that west Germany grows tired of having to be nice to the east. Sensing this, he has already dampened his poetic licence. The once unavoidable address "Brothers and sisters" disappeared practically overnight in October when the estranged siblings were finally back under one roof. Speechwriters will now take second place

Beside the economic beadaches

of the present, the new Germany must come to terms with the hangover of the past. More than a year after its fall, the legacy of the Honecker regime continues to cast a long shadow over the country. The monstrous and sprawling Stansioherheit that held east German society in its vice looks like turning into a political tool wielded by the main parties to keep eastern politicians out of positions of influence. Even if this is not the case, more could be done

to avoid the impression.

Lothar de Maizière, deputy leader of the Christian Democrats and East Germany's last prime minister, discovered the limitations of his party's goodwill when it failed to support him last week allegations launched by unknown sources that he was a secret police informer. The move, which was considered a prophylactic against future scandal, divests the east of any real representation at senior decision-making level in Bonn and may well retard the political integration of east Germany by discouraging easterners from political involvement, on the grounds that as soon as they get anywhere near local, regional or national office, someone will whisper "Stasi" and it will all be over.

err de Maizière's fall will not be an isolated incident, and the legacy of the Stasi is the main moral challenge facing Chancellor Kohl. Simply dropping those whose names are blackened, fairly or otherewise, by undeclared hands is demoralising and ensures that the influence of the apparatus continues to poison the wells of the new deomocracy. Perversely, the organisation they used to call "Look, Listen and Grab" appears more sinister now than at the height of its powers, stalking the government and public life in a western democracy a year after its own dissolution.

The conundrum is how to prevent the past of the divided Germany burdening the future of the reunified one. The Federal Republic faced the same hurdle in

1951 when the Social Democratic leader Kurt Schumacher opened the discussion of the future of Waffen SS members in the new democracy. He wrote, "By methodic ensnarement, all totalitarian systems have succeeded in making their guilt the guilt of all. It is a human and civic necessity now to break this circle."

To break a similar circle of distrust and resentment now will mean a deepening of the super-ficial contacts between the parties and institutions in the two parts of Germany and the pursuit of generosity as a political as well as a private goal. A clear look at the past will not leave the alumni of the modern Federal Republic unscathed. There are already writings about the extent to which the late Bavarian premier Franz Josef Strauss was entangled with the regime. The SPD stubbornly adhered to repuroch with the Honecker regime well past the point of psefulness, and Chancellor Kohl received Herr Honecker with full honours a

mere four years ago. Until the beginning of 1990, neither East nor West Germany believed reunification would Those in the east sought to improve their chances and their children's futures inside the cosy, repressive state socialism of the GDR. Those in the west accepted and co-operated with that system in an attempt to normalise an abnormal state of affairs.

As Germany enters the new ear, its unity is only beginning. True integration will take longer, dogged by economic imperatives, social inferiority and superiority complexes and the bitter, inevitable necessity of facing up to the failures of the years apart. The veteran Ostpolitiker Egon Bahr recently summarised his country's position in words that could serve as the national motto for 1991: "We are now faced with the problems we always dreamed of having. It is wonderful."

> Tomorrow Roger Boyes reports on Christmas in Poland

#### How ruffled vou can be...

when the Times Diary was resurrected in April, readers enquired what was the column's raison d'être. We replied: to provide stories that lived up to the advice of a femous Fleet Street diary editor that a good diary item should be on an e of concern to readers and should contain "one fact, one generalisation and preferably one very slight inaccuracy".

Nine months later and with the Diary postbag to hand, the real concerns of the Times Diary readers can be revealed. During 1990, it turns out, they were not concerned unduly by the Gulf, home politics or even the World Cup. No. Our largest mail-bags were produced by stories about Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons, Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit, Richmal Crompton's Just William, and BBC Radio's longdistant Toytown.

Where, for example, was the archetypal English village in which the schoolboy ruffian William lived? A Harrow classics master produced a map "proving" it was in Oxfordshire. Others cited 1930s rail timetables and a study of the commuting habits of William's father to claim it was Bromley in Kent. One was left agreeing with William: all grown-

ups are mad. A Diary tale that a film was being made of The Adventures of Peter Rabbit kept the letters editor busy for several weeks and even provoked a leading article. Earlier in the year it had seemed that half the paper's readers were scouring the country looking for a suitable bird to play Captain Flint's green talking parrot at the sixtieth Swallows and Amazons birthday party at Windermere.

Angry correspondence followed the Diary's report of Clive Ponting's claim that the voice in a recording of Churchill's "we shall fight on the beaches" speech was not that of the great man but of the actor who played Larry the Lamb in Toytown. Strangely, not a single letter objected to the slight on Churchill's reputation. What upset Times readers far more was that we could so confuse our Toytown characters. The actor who claimed to have imitated Churchill, it turned out, had not played Larry the Lamb, but the Magician.

What this tells us about our readers is probably best left to the psychologists. But one doubts that if, heaven forbid, the Diary ever started writing about Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the response would be quite the same or indeed, that they will be remembered by anyone in 50

#### Lands of hoarding

hen not recording stories about the world of children's classics, the Diary was kept busy noting the seachange in the world of advertising during the year. Although the industry was in recession in the developed world, many formerly deprived countries were discovering the wonders of advertising. Lech Walesa, we recorded, signed up to promote Mariboro cigarettes and walked straight into a dispute with the anti-smoking lobby. At home, his government was selling Warsaw's top hotel to Trusthouse Forte, a company not noted for its support of Solidarity, or any other trade union for that matter. A London company spent the year busily transforming Prague's gothic skyline with Piccadilly

Circus-style advertising, while

Moscow's chandeliered underground network was also being disfigured with neon ads. Even Pravda, required reading for party purists since 1917, began soliciting western capitalist advertising in 1990. A spokesman even asked if the Diary could try to persuade a certain Rupert Murdoch to put a little advertising Pravda's way.

#### **Unsilly season**

hen along came Saddam Hussein. Just as newspapers were preparing stories about fresh sightings of the Loch Ness monster and other such staples of the silly season, the Gulf crupted. The conflict was a godsend for diarists, although not for Sir Crispin Tickell, then our man at the United Nations. He was forced, the Diary revealed, to cancel a trip to the Montana badlands in search of dinosaur eggs. The emergency also proved somewhat inconvenient for Harold "Hooky" Walker, ambassador in Baghdad, who was on holiday

The same of the same of the same of the same

Iraqis invaded Kuwait. Who had given him leave to pack his bags?
"He would have had to apply for leave in the normal way. The application would have been dealt with at senior official or min-isterial level," said the Foreign Office. Which minister or official was not a matter for discussion in the Diary or elsewhere, the FO insisted curtly.

Not that Whitehall could complain about Walker. Most of the cabinet also responded by taking a holiday. The Diary wondered who was left behind to mind the shop and came up with Charles Powell the Downing Street aide, who did what most of his bosses failed to do and cancelled a walking holiday in France.

Meanwhile, the Diary itself was asked to visit Baghdad after it discovered that the Iraqi culture ministry's office in London was still issuing invitations to an international arts festival, planned for October. Dismissing what it called "these little local difficulties", the office faxed an invitation proclaiming "lraq, the country of peace, welcomes world

Funny, indeed or two weeks last month all other news was cancelled as an astonished Britain watched the ending of an era. The Conservative leadership contest produced some bitter feuding among old friends, and perfect fodder for the Diary.

Denis Thatcher, we learned, was most upset with Sir Neil Macfarlane, his erstwhile partner on the links, who was a prominent member of Michael Heseltine's campaign. "You can't play golf with a man one day and savage his wife the next," said the then plain

Mr Thatcher to friends at the 19th. By a stroke of luck rather than any inside knowledge, the Diary ran a speculative piece on November 22 headed "Pensioner, but plenty to offer", wondering what former prime ministers did in retirement in Dulwich. By 9.37 that morning the question had become a real one. The following day, the Diary catalogued the reaction of prominent people when they heard the news. "It may very seriously dent my career, but I am still delighted, said John Wells, the satirist who has made a fortune out of imitating Sir Denis.

Two catch-phrases came to epitomise the change of prime minister. First was Mrs Thatcher's "It's a funny old world". Then, presiding over his first cabinet meeting. John Major greeted his colleagues with the words: "Well, who would have thought it?"

 In the year that Britain ceased to be an island, British Rail offered a pair of tickets on the first Channel tunnel train to any Times reader who came up with a suitable name for the new service. Hundreds of suggestions were forwarded to BR. "I suggest Mirage," wrote Rodney Miskin from Surrey, "something illusory and far away." Another reader sug-gested Orpheus: "He made a successful return journey below ground even if he failed to bring back what he went for." "The Wellington would commemorate a man who did much to bring peace to Europe and give assurance to dry feet," suggested another. A number of the ideas submitted have made it to the shortlist. But with no decision seven months after suggestions were invited, this part of the project is by no means high-speed. The Diary's own favourite?

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Sunday and Sunday in England.

is since the season began, against y be have a Although certainly remains that football has each size. amore its European image of late there have becaved be America way have beneated were American ice hockey followers bing went to the big fight and a still have at to be the use in that 3 port of so endarsin bin in which of endin he sin him confined in a short i e sin bin has spread to Britain Smindles heer controver Antipoduction in 1983. There is no Anducing it to football and rugb this world by a plague of sendi This would be a bad mistake they the sin bin has lost its and am of public disgrace. Quite apart

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of-court sendement, Gloucester-

shire county council pays

undisclosed damages to a Dr

Foster who suffered psychologi-

From Father Aidan Nichols, OP

Sir, Clifford Longley, following the cue of the Anglican history of

Oxford, is wrong to assume that the reservations found in Church circles

rate, there can be no apostolic

prodence in supporting the wresting of Kuwait from iraq's control at the cost of a war which will strengthen the positions of Syria, the rapist of

the Maronite Lebanon; of Iran, the inflamer of pan-Islamic feeling

throughout the region; and of Saudi Arabia, whose refusal to permit the

construction of Christian places of

worship is well known. It will also

If Kuwaiti identity is truly dis-

German Reich, Meanwhile, the

aggression by military compacts that

give the clear signal "Thus far (for the time being), but no further".

Sir, A key element in the "shoddi-

ness" of the document issued on

November 26 over the signatures of

100 churchmen, ecclesiastical and

lay, is that its argument is couched

in terms of the Christian doctrine

about a just war. Clifford Longley is

piece of theoretical reasoning as ever

emerged from scholastic theology.

In practice, however, it is useless,

because it is impossible to satisfy, in

Blackfriars, Buckingham Road, Cambridge.

From Mr Dominic Flessati

Arab populations.

Yours sincerely,

is also required.

AIDAN NICHOLS,

DECEMBER 26 1990

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Tomorrow 100 P27

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#### FAITH MOVES A MOUNTAIN The spirit of Christmas goodwill received an unexpected bonus when it was announced on Christmas Eve that Salman Rushdie and a group of Muslim representatives had been reconciled. The agreement, essentially that there will be no paperback of The Satanic Verses nor further publication in translation, has not satisfied militant Muslims in Britain or abroad, notably Iran. But it brings a gap between the two sides, which had looked unbridgeable, to negotiable dimensions. Those Muslims who remain intransigent

now risk isolation from the majority of their co-religionists in Britain, who were never as adamant as the extremists tried to pretend. Above all, the agreement should reduce the danger that the militants would succeed in their cynical use of The Satanic Verses quarrel to gain leadership among Britain's unstable million-plus Muslim population. Until now, moderate Muslims who defied the extremists were themselves at risk. Dr Hesham El-Essawy, president of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance and the main architect of the deal, deserves credit for his courage.

The way is now open for a strong assertion of moderate Muslim leadership, and for the utter repudiation by such leaders of the wild talk - barely if at all on the right side of the law - of such as Dr Kalim Siddiqui of the London-based Muslim Institute. The controversy over The Satanic Verses has drawn attention to several weaknesses in the law, not the least of which is the difficulty the authorities have had in prosecuting those in Britain (Dr Siddiqui included) who have called publicly for Mr Rushdie's murder.

There are no grounds for doubting the sincerity of Mr Rushdie's apparently sudden reconciliation with the Muslim faith, though his latest actions do throw a new light on his previous stance. Having embraced Islam, he this is still uncertain.

now thinks there should be no paperback, justifying those Muslims who have said the same all along. If he is against a paperback edition, for which there would presumably be a large sale, what is the point in the more expensive hardback remaining on sale? He could have argued at any time in the past year that his "message" - whatever it was - was sufficiently disseminated. Mr Rushdie still seems part-prisoner of an assorted group of secular intellectuals who, for a while, made him their proto-martyr for free speech - a group which would surely have demanded the legal suppression of a book

offending Jews or blacks. The fatwa imposed by the late Ayatollah Khomeini 22 months ago remains an intolerable intrusion into British affairs as well as an appalling advertisement for Islam in the West. Mr Rushdie remains at risk and will need to be guarded for some while yet. The Iranian authorities must find a way formally to declare that the fatwa is at an end, and to release British prisoners who

have, in effect, been hostages to this cause. The British government, for its part, should look again at the archaic blasphemy law. Enlarging it to encompass more than Christianity is likely to make legal intrusion into religious affairs more rather than less fraught, but Muslim complaints of unfairness to non-Christian faiths in British law were justified. Whether there is room in race relations legislation for the outlawing of insults against a person on the grounds of religion, as there is already on the grounds of race, remains to be tested. The principle, as a modest buttress of pluralist tolerance, is sound, But as The Satanic Verses controversy has shown, Britain has a long way to go in learning to live with religious diversity. The proper role for the law in all

#### **ROMANIA'S SAD YEAR**

Romania's Christmas upheaval a year ago made a deep impression on the outside world. The images were those of classic revolution: the dictator driven from his balcony by an enraged crowd, the ruthless massacre at Timisoara, the chaotic television broadcasts, the trial and execution of the Ceausescus, all carried round the world by the broadcast media. But ever since last December, the impression has grown that the surface appearance gave a false version of those events.

Today's interview in The Times with the dictator's dying son, Nicu, shows just how far from the truth were those accounts. There was indeed a popular revolt, ignited at first by the attempt to banish the Hungarianspeaking pastor, Laszlo Tokes, from Timisoara. Later, when Ceausescu failed to react quickly enough, the revolt spread to Bucharest and other cities. The army indeed helped to depose him; there were authentic dissidents among those who formed the National Salvation Front after his fall.

There the facts end, the mythology begins. Ceausescu's overthrow had been prepared. with Moscow's blessing, by a disaffected wing of the party which numbered nearly all the members of Romania's present leadership. Nicu claims that one of the factors persuading his father to hang on was a determination not to give in to Moscow. The Romanian revolution was a coup d'état designed to keep a reformed and renamed communist clique in power.

To that end the chief conspirators made skilful use of the media, both domestic and foreign, to exaggerate the scale of the fighting and the casualties. Bogus battles raged in the streets. In some cases massacres were invented. Television conveyed the impression that the hated Securitate, having fought to the death for the dictator, had now been destroyed. The secret police's survival into the new regime was thereby greatly eased. The mock heroics which the West mistook for revolutionary acts merely helped to bolster the National Salvation Front in power, even when most genuine dissidents speedily resigned from it.

In the past year the insufficiency of the Christmas "revolution" has become steadily more apparent. After the martial triumph, freedom arrived on tiptoe. In March an anti-Hungarian mob in Tirgu Mures slaughtered several members of the Magyar minority, raising fears that the sinister organisation, Vatra Romaneasca, was preparing a massacre with the government's approval.

The election campaign which ended in May was marked by serious malpractices. The result, a victory for the Front, was helped by the divisions among the opposition parties. In June President Iliescu ordered trainloads of miners into Bucharest to intimidate his opponents. Since then attempts have been made to build a broadlybased opposition movement, but without much success. The command economy has failed to revive and the government has no idea how to create a market economy. There is little for Romanians to celebrate this Christmas, and little for them to celebrate with. This was the only "anti-communist" revolution in Eastern Europe at which much blood was shed; was it shed for this?

The best hope in Romania now is that calls for a second, but this time real, revolution are multiplying. The Front's monopoly on power may even collapse before the winter is out. Romania is still an inward-looking country, but the superiority of life in the outside world cannot be kept secret for much longer. As Bishop Tokes wrote in a memoir of last year's uprising, "Communism destroyed the old structures of society and had no idea how to build new ones. . . I feel myself to be living in the ruins of an old society." Yesterday ex-King Michael unexpectedly returned to view those ruins. Perhaps, a year on, Romania may have something to celebrate after all.

#### FOUL PROFESSIONALS

Last weekend was the worst for ill-discipline in the Football League's 102-year-old history. A total of 15 players were sent off last Saturday and Sunday in England, making 105 since the season began, against 89 at this stage last year. Although certainly refereeing standards may have tightened, the fact remains that football has been struggling to improve its European image of late. While supporters may have behaved better, the players have gone from bad to worse.

American ice hockey followers have a saying: "I went to the big fight and a game of ice hockey broke out." One reason is widely held to be the use in that sport of something called a "sin bin", in which offending players are publicly confined for a short sentence. The sin bin has spread to Britain, in rugby league, where it has been controversial since its introduction in 1983. There is now talk of introducing it to football and rugby union, both recent hit by a plague of sendings off.

This would be a bad mistake. In icehockey the sin bin has lost its impact as a form of public disgrace. Quite apart from the inverted glory of being "troublesome", players make deliberate calculations of whether ten minutes in the sin bin is worth dangerously inhibiting a potential goalscorer. The sin bin is merely a cowardly halfway house between letting a player get away with foul play and sending him off the field. Sports that use sin bins do so in the knowledge that spectators enjoy watching a certain amount of violence, and do not want violent players banished from the game for

In a recent rugby league match between too long. Widnes and Leeds, Leeds had a player sent to the sin bin for punching a Widnes player who was kneeling on the ground. Spectators to the sin bin for punching a who was kneeling on the ground. Speciators be sent back across the Atlantic forthwith. | government. | Abergavenny, Gwent. |

expelled from the match had but a few minutes to wait. Another Leeds player hit an opponent. The culprit broke off listening to his warning from the referee to punch a second Widnes player. This was going too far and he was indeed sent off. But only on the sports field would such behaviour in public fail to provoke an immediate arrest by any police who were present.

concept of the "professional foul", for which lax penalties such as warnings and sin bins are no answer. This euphemism describes deliberate cheating, usually to prevent a worse outcome than the punishment due, such as an unavoidable and commercially costly goal. Outside the field of sport, the professional foul, of which insider trading is perhaps a fair parallel, is simply illegal and lands the perpetrator in jail.

balancing the impact on the game and its players of the system of yellow and red cards repeating minor offender is sent off automatically. Rugby league, which has become one of Britain's better run sports and from which football's muddled, two-tier administration could imitate, merely damages its reputation by sometimes seeming to treat violent behaviour as if it was a peccadillo,

who wondered what a player had to do to be

Team sports are being corrupted by the

Football referees have a hard time two of the former equalling the latter so a

even a badge of manliness. Rugby, football, tennis, are all sports that act as templates for sporting behaviour, especially by the young. They should be much tougher on dissent against a referee's (or umpire's) decision and tougher still on surely be one of the last controls violence. The sin bin is no answer, it should exercised by this market-orientated (or umpire's) decision and tougher still on be sent back across the Atlantic forthwith. . | government.

#### Clergy attitudes to the threat of war

be arrived at? Take "right intention". In whose mind is that to be formulated, and who is to judge whether it exists, and by criteria? "Proportionality of response"? Who in advance can judge, with the

reservations found in Church circles on the subject of a Gulf war necessarily derive from anti-American, anti-statist, or anti-military neuroses ("An elite with no answer", December 15). On the contrary, informed Western clergy who take seriously the Testament injunction to "do good expecially to required certainty, the duration of a war, its geographical extent, the number and nationality of those involved, their gender and age, their status - combatant or non-combatinjunction to "do good especially to those who are of the household of ant - the type of weapons that will be employed from start to finish, and the casualties? "Certainty of the faith" will have uppermost in victory"? Just remember the "Russian steamroller" of 1914; Hitler's "thousand-year Reich." I could go on. Not surprisingly, even if the triteria are applied with greater their minds, at the present juncture, the fate of the Christian peoples of the Middle East. For the Catholic Church, at any

objectivity than in the document in question, the conclusion has to be that war in the Gulf will be unjust. But so will any other war to which they are applied. In other words, the criteria are really a cloak for total

Yours sincerely, D. FLESSATI, 1 Sylvan Avenue, N3. December 20.

provide Israel with a possible excuse for expelling, as Iraqi sympathisers, its Melchite and Latin-Christian From Monsignor Patrick O'Mahony Sir, I feel that Clifford Longley is rather unfair about the private Christian statement of the "relitinct, it will survive a period of Iraqi domination, as did Austria its decade of incorporation in the gentsia" when he describes the document as intellectually shoddy and a pathetic tissue. I would agree demands of secular political ratio-nality are sufficiently met by subjecting Iraq to diplomatic isola-tion and economic penalty, and blocking any further territorial that it lacks rigour, but it is a serious attempt to apply the just war principles to the Gulf situation.

My quarrel with the argument is that it suggests that a just war promotes a just peace. This is not necessarily so. Nor is it clear that it would be better to allow Saddam to incorporate Kuwait into Iraq than to fight a war. It is very doubtful that this could be described as a just

It is sad that Western states have supplied much of the technology of death with which we are now threatened. Surely, in a nuclear age, we must change our focus on war and arms-sales to peace and dev-

elopment of the whole planet. This entails more concentration on people and less on states. But here of course, is one of the most agonising problems of our time — namely, how to switch from loyalright to castigate it.
The document is indeed as neat a ties that are primarily nationcentred to a new set of loyalties which accept the fact that we are a planetary society and one, single

advance as is required, any one of its several criteria for declaring a war just, let alone all of them at once, as PATRICK O'MAHONY (Chairman Take, for instance, the "last resort" criterion. Who is to judge when all diplomatic means, includ-Commission for Justice, Peace and Overseas Development Archdiocese of Birmingham), ing in the present case sanctions, have been exhausted; and by what further criteria is that judgment to Our Lady of the Wayside, Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands.

Commissioner's negotiating flexibil-

ity; but it is nonsense to suggest that the American tactics were any more

From Lord Willoughby de Broke

Sir, The tone of recent Times

articles dealing with the current Gatt

round of talks has become increas-ingly strident, culminating in the

intemperate and unhelpful outburst

in your leader of December 13. This

referred to the "monstrously cor-

rupt" common agricultural policy, going on to offer the astonishing suggestion that the European Commissioner responsible for agri-

culture be excluded from further

European agriculture remains cen-

tral to any progress in Gatt. Mr MacSharry, the Commissioner, should be congratulated, not pillor-ied, for his refusal to be railroaded

into concessions damaging to Europe's agricultural and social structure.

The fact is that a fair deal for

participation in the talks.

liberal.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN AMOS,

House of Commons

#### **Future of Gatt** From Mr Alan Amos, MP for

Sir, Contrary to your supposition of the European Community's respon-sibility for the interruption of the Gatt talks (leading article, December 13), the talks would not have faltered had the United States treated its own farmers in the manner it considered appropriate for their European counterparts.

The American position was disingenuous from the start, and it is to be regretted that their trade repre-sentatives had no intention of entering genuine and detailed discussions on areas of disagreement, apparently preferring instead the farcical process of conducting complex and vital negotiations through media intermediaries.

You attacked the agriculture sioner's role without acknowledging that he is constrained by the views of the more protectionist of the European farm ministers. It is true that such political considerations, albeit based on the real difficulties that farmers will face in adjusting to the post-Gatt world, placed an undue constraint on the

#### Potter on hunting From Mr Henry Moore

Sir, Ronald Faux, writing about Beatrix Potter's apparent lack of support for fox hunting (report, December 14), appears to have forgotten the story of Jemima Puddle Duck. But then, Sir, you may be biased, for the villain of that tale could well have been an avid reader of The Times: "Seated upon a stump she was startled to find an elegantly dressed gentleman, reading a newspaper".

However, in the end, good triumphs over evil and our heroine is rescued by a collie dog and two foxhound puppies. "And nothing more was ever seen of that foxy whiskered gentleman.". The picture shows the three dogs in full chase. Yours faithfully,

HENRY MOORE, Shucknall Court, Hereford.

#### Letting of property From Mr A. Hutchison

Sir, The minister for bousing and planning wishes to discover recent legislation designed to encourage letting of property by private landlords has failed (report,

towards the letting of vacant properties, which can now be let on assured shorthold tenancies at market rents. However, there is still a rump of pre-1988 Housing Act tenancies occupied by tenants on a regulated basis, and paying what is ironically termed a "fair rent". Experience discloses that these rents are anything but fair, and must

#### From Mr Anthony Gaddum

Yours faithfully, WILLOUGHBY de BROKE,

Sir, Whatever Beatrix Potter's views on hunting, they cannot have been very strong. Her residuary legatees were Jim and Molly Gaddum, the children of her double first-cousin,

her regard for them.

ANTHONY GADDUM, Lane Ends House, Sutton Lane Ends, Nr Macclesfield, Cheshire.

December 11). Such legislation has been directed

Jim was master of the Windermere Harriers from 1923 until his death in 1956. Molly's great interest was the Ludlow Hunt, of which she and her husband. Jack Payne, were honorary secretaries for 25 years. Their love of blood sports was known by their cousin Beatrix and evidently made no difference to I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Two events are required before

there can be any confidence by private landlords in providing

nomes for rent. First, the so-called

"fair rent" system must be abol-

ished, and market rents apply to all

existing and future lettings, with assistance to the needy funded from

the abolition of mortgage interest

tax relief. The resulting investment

value of the property will then improve, and it will be less likely to

be sold off to an owner-occupier

when vacant possession occurs. Secondly, there must be a consen-

sus of policy by the major political

to legislate in the future for rent

Wern-y-Cwm, Llandewi Skirrid,

controls.

Yours faithfully,

A. HUTCHISON,

Abergavenny, Gwent.

December 14.

#### From Miss Sarah Quill

too mild?) or "attack" and "denigrate" (alarmingly provocative?)
It will be a relief when this the dustbin where it belongs. Yours faithfully, SARAH OUILL 2 St Peter's Court parties, with a firm commitment not

> Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Porchester Road, W2.

#### Nostalgic anchors to Britain's past

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathchyde

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

in the first instance, on performances of operas by Gilbert and Sullivan. They engender in the British (and especially in the English) a nostalgic fondness for Britain's imperial past which is a serious obstacle to change and reform. Everything associated with that

past, from lord chancellors and the like in fancy dress to light-hearted, bone-headed military men in scarlet, gives credence to the idea that great salth flows effortlessly and unceas ingly from such cultivated minds.

The facts are that our wealth-creating apparatus, in the form of business and industry, continues to decline almost monotonically, and has done so since those operas were first performed. This is not to blame Gilbert and Sullivan, as such, for our steadily worsening trade deficit but rather to point out that the society responsible for it and which they caricatured is still with us.

Antiquated attitudes to education persist in the yearning for the old

standards, including the gold stan-

dard, as expressed in examination forms hardly changed in a hundred Sir, I would like to propose that years. New skills, new knowledge there be a moratorium, for five years and new attitudes are already with us, and our failure to let go of the old is not to be excused by the low price

we attach to it.
Perhaps Gilbert and Sullivan are. like the pound sterling and the pint, anchors to a past so much more certain than our future that we dare not let it go. The price of clinging to it rather than embracing our future in Europe or elsewhere is, as we have seen, rather high. Looking forward rather than backward will engender robustness as opposed to nostalgia. Once Britain is economically robust again, we can then afford to be nostalgic, musically or

otherwise. I am sure we would all love to be gifted amateurs, or at least amateurs. The trouble is that all our competitors are professionals and know it.

now changed. We are told that the

Cold War is over and that our

relations with the Soviet Union are

friendly. Their representatives come to London and ask for gifts of food,

to be paid for by British taxpayers.

defected to Russia were never

punished in this way. Donald Maclean's wife, Kim Philby's son

and George Blake's mother travelled

frequently to Moscow. There was no

way under English law of preventing

m, since they had committed no

Margaret Thatcher and Douglas

Hurd have several times raised the case with Soviet counterparts, but

without success. It is an irritant in

British-Soviet relations, even

though the British side have so far

said little about it publicly.
It shows how the KGB can still

have the last word on matters where

they feel particularly strongly and

that there is another side to Mr

Gorbachev's great liberalisation. Things cannot be that good if the KGB are still capable of being so

nasty to a woman and two children.

73 Sussex Square Gardens, W2,

From the Registrar of Criminal

In order to secure as early a

that the preliminary hearing should

be held on Monday of this week. At

that hearing, the court heard sub-

missions from counsel for both the

Crown and the appellants, and was

informed that the final report of the

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

might well be of assistance to the

appellants, through further material

which might then be disclosed to the

On being told that the report was

court directed that a second prelimi-

nary hearing should be held as early

as possible in February. It indicated

that the hearing of the full appeal

should start on Monday, February

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Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS BETHELL,

Birmingham Six

December 24.

Appeals

Crown.

Yours faithfully,

Strand, WC2.

December 20.

MICHAEL MCKENZIE,

Royal Courts of Justice.

Capital strategy

From Mrs F. M. Manistv

Sir, Our children (aged ten, eight,

and seven) are spending hours playing Monopoly. Whilst they observe the given rules rigorously.

the following profoundly radical strategies have quickly emerged:

1. Make your cash work for you.

Registrar of Criminal Appeals,

The families of British spies who

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM HILLS, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathchyde, Glasgow 1.

#### Gordievsky's family From Lord Bethell, MEP for London North West (European Democrat

(Conservative)) Sir, I write to raise the case of the family of Oleg Gordievsky, the former KGB agent whose memoirs The Times recently serialised (October 13-17). His wife and children have been refused permission to leave Russia, where I recently visited them.

Many people in this country seem to accept the Soviet government's decision. They feel, it seems, that Mr Gordievsky betrayed the KGB so seriously that he cannot expect to obtain the release of his wife and daughters.

It seems to me pure Stalinism for a wife and two small girls to be punished for something done by their husband or father. Almost anyone is being allowed to leave the Soviet Union these days, but Mrs Gordievsky is being kept in Russia and under constant surveillance even though she is a totally innocent party. It has never been alleged that she was his accomplice.

In 1985, when he defected, it was unthinkable that she would be allowed to join him, but things have

#### Filling in at the Tate From the Director of the Tate Gallery

Sir, In view of the letter published Sir, The English have never been today from Mr Thomas Osborne, it slow to scoff at the achievements of modern sculptors (letter from A. may be appropriate to make it clear that arrangements for the Christmas vacation have in no way impeded Kenneth Snowman, December 20). However, they are eventually silenced by the volume of interthe progress of the appeal of the Henry Moore and now Richard hearing as possible, it was the court, of its own initiative, which directed

Long. We welcome Mr Snowman's interest in our roof, though it seems to have escaped his attention that less and less of our reserve is "languishing". In recent years the opening of the Clore Gallery for the Turner Bequest and the Tate Gallery, Liverpool, as well as the introduction of a new policy of rotating the collections on Millbank, have done much to ensure that most British and modern art may be seen. Next year we plan an exhibition of Turner oils in the regions and displays of expected at the end of January, the Spencer and recent British painting in Norwich.

At Millbank a new cycle of displays involving changes to 70 per cent of our rooms will be open in January. This will include several 25, 1991. works not seen for 30 or 40 years, including sculpture by early twenti-eth-century artists Lambert, Wheeler, Dobson and McMillan, which might satisfy Mr Snowman's taste, if not his laudable wish to put our roof into an acceptable state of repair. Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS SEROTA, Director, Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1. December 20.

#### Out for the count

From Mrs G. W. Lancaster Sir, I see (report, December 12) that staff (presumably several) at Gedling borough council, spent three hours counting someone's poil tax which had been paid in 21,862 pennies. Surely they could have checked it in a matter of minutes by weighing and simple arithmetic. How would our local authority have coped if we had tried the same stunt when paying our £1,964 rates? Yours etc., LORNA LANCASTER,

Byways, Ayres End Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

#### Unnecessary load

Sir, Recently, and rather too frequently, the use of the noun "rubbish" as a transitive verb has crept into many newspapers It is becoming difficult to remember what people used before the arrival of this euphemism for words such as "criticize" and "run down" (a shade philological dilemma is resolved, so that "rubbish" can be returned to

#### From Mr J. O. Hitchcock

December 20.

Sir, The quiz shows on television I like best are the advertisements: trying to guess what is being advertised. I get about 70 per cent right, Yours faithfully. J. O. HITCHCOCK High House, Underriver, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent.

Debt is preferable to sale of properties. 2. The two younger ones form an operating partnership when both deeply in debt. In practice this

doesn't help much but cheers them both up immeasurably. 3. When debts are all beyond the mathematics of the banker, all are

cancelled. 4. If one player becomes revoltingly

rich the others receive sudden cash hand-outs. 5. The aims of the game become to keep it going "for ever" or bankrupt the bank (public enemy no 1,

despite charging no interest) Are my children mugs or the undustrialists of the future? Yours faithfully,

FIONA M MANISTY, Hambledon Lodge, Main Street Chackmore, Buckingham December 18

#### TV sales talk

orth (7) 

dge (7) Plagen Twal

#### SOCIAL **NEWS**

**Birthdays** 

Sir Christopher Hewetson, for-

**Anniversaries** 

New York, 1891.

BIRTHS: Thomas Gray, poet, London, 1716; Charles Babbage, pioneer of calculating machines,

Totnes, 1792; Dion Boucicault,

today

#### **Forthcoming** marriages

Mr P.R.N. Childs and Miss F.J. Madeley The engagement is announced

between Peter Robin Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs C.E.N. Childs, of Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire, and Fiona Jane, daughter of Professor and Mrs C.R. Madeley, of Stocksfield, Northumberland. Mr A.K. Fox

and Miss J. Warren-Smith The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of the late Mr K.H.L. Fox and of Mrs E.J. Fox, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Jennifer, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.L. Warren-Smith, of St John's Wood,

#### War and Peace Ball

The third War and Peace Ball will be held at the Cafe Royal, on February 1, 1991. Dress will be optional 1812 costume. Tick-Michael Cripps, 47 Eims Road, London, SW4 9EP. Telephone: 071-720 9219.

#### Inns of Court studentships

Studentships have been awarded to the following people for University of Bristol.

Ann. Bevitt. Gray's Inn. Chelmsford

#### Ramblers campaign for parks protection

By Peter DAVENPORT

THE Ramblers' Association Wales. The association wants will fight for increased protec- the national parks' review tion against "horrendous" panel, whose report is due in pressures for development in February, to signal the way national parks, it says today in ahead for the parks over the priorities for 1991. legislation to safesmard

It also calls for the creation hedgerows which, the associof internationally recognised ation says, are disappearing in national parks in Scotland, England and Wales at a rate of particularly to protect the 4,000 miles a year. It conpriceless scenery and wild demus recent government character" of the Cairngorms, proposals to pay compensa-Ben Nevis, Glen Coe and tion to farmers who do not Loch Lomond.

och Lomond. destroy hedgerows as "too Alan Martingley, the associfeeble"; ation's director, says in a I full planning control over Christmas message to all Britthe construction of farm ish branches: "With all signs buildings. The association pointing to a general election says there is no longer any case in 199! our main aim must be for treating farm buildings to persuade all political parties differently from other to promise to take firm mea- commercial and industrial sures in the next parliament to buildings, protect and extend public access to countryside through- also campaign against: out Britain."

The association says that woods and forests being sold public support for its aims has by the Forestry Commission; never been stronger. It now the illegal ploughing or has more than 80,000 individ- cropping of footpaths and ual members, with member- other rights of way; ship increasing by ten per cent arving up of green belts a year and 800 affiliated clubs around cities where devel-

Next year it will intensify a relaxation of planning campaigns for: □ all political parties to □ the government's current promise in their election plans for legislation on commanifestos to protect the mon land. The association countryside and public access accuses the government of with legislation to give legal caving in to the demands of right of access, on foot, to all grouse moor owners and their moorland, mountain and gamekeepers: other uncultivated open country in Britain, subject to a private bill promoted by necessary restrictions to safe- British Rail aimed at closing

I the creation of intering the London-Edinburgh national recognised national rail line. The association says parks in Scotland; Detter protection for the 11 ful it will close hundreds more national parks in England and paths crossing rail lines.

# Nature notes

controls:

TAME town pigeons are mainly descended from the rock doves of the wilder Scottish coasts. The two populations rarely meet, but most of the town birds still have the distinctive double bar on the wing and the silvery underwing of the rock dove, although they have interbred with other domestic pigeons. They also retain the rapid flight that led to their first heing selected as racing pigeons. Whether on a rocky as it circles round high in the ledge or a neglected window air. sill, they defend their small territories with a deep, vibrat-bling on the ground; but the ing moan repeated again and leaves of the London plane

engine. trectops, the nearest note they garden walls, the daisy-like have to a song. Occasionally a flowers of feveriew can still be skylark climbs from a field of seen.



The association says it will

□ loss of public access to

opers and some planners want

10 public rights of way cross-

that if British Rail is success-

**TOWN PIGEON** young winter wheat and sings

Most dead leaves are crumagain, like some inefficient tree resist the wind and rain, and green leaves are still Great tits are singing on landing on top of the deep. mild mornings: they too have brown drifts. Beech twigs are a very mechanical double speckled against the sky with note. Nuthatches make long-folded, clinging leaves and drawn out whistles in the empty nutshells. By some

#### OBITUARIES

#### DR JOHN DAWSON

Dr John Dawson, under-see retary at the British Medical Professor C.M. Campbell, vice-Association and head of its chancellor, Nottingham Univer-sity, 46; Mr Patric Dickinson, professional, scientific and international affairs division, poet and playwright, 76; Mr Alastair Dunnett, former chairdied of cancer on December 20 man, Thomson Scottish Petro-leum, 82; Baroness Faithfull, 80; aged 44. He was born on August 18, 1946. mer president, Law Society, 61; Mr Roban Kanhai, cricketer, 55;

IN A career tragically cut short Mr Kotan Kannal, creketes, 35, Mr Eric Kinder, chairman, Smith and Nephew, 63; Profes-sor Thea King, clarinettist, 65; Miss Jane Lapotaire, actress, 46; Mr Denis Quilley, actor, 63. by illness John Dawson did much to transform the British Medical Association from a cosy club, dedicated to safeguarding the status quo and protecting the medical ion, to an organisation which took a vigorous interest in public health. He was head. of the BMA's foundation for Aids and was at the heart of all the discussions of social, pol-itical and ethical matters as actor and dramatist, Dublin, 1822; Henry Miller, novelist, they affected the medical profession, which have taken place in recent years. As a DEATHS: John Wilkes, pol-itical reformer, London, 1797; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeoresult the BMA found itself Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, Naples, 1890; James Stephens, novelist and poet, London, 1950; Harry S. Truman, 33rd president of the USA 1945-53, Kansas City, 1972; Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer, 1989. more closely involved in public health issues than it had been at any time in its 150year history.

John Duncan Dawson was

School and St Mary's Hospital Medical School where he qualified in 1971. After a couple of years of house jobs in the Isle of Wight, Sussex and at the Middlesex Hospital, he joined the British Antarctic Survey in November 1972 and spent the winter of 1973-4 at the geophysical observatory at Halley Bay. During that period he was responsible for the health of the 20 members of the survey stationed there and had a shared responsibility for the members of other British Antarctic Survey bases where no doctor was stationed. He had also gone to Halley Bay to make a documentary film about the social relationships in a remote observatory where staff have to cope with prob-lems associated with polar climate and prolonged isolation over long periods. Entitled The Ice and the Sky the

Lady Wheeler, archaeologist and widow of Sir Mortimer Wheeler, died in Cambridge on December 14 aged 74. She

was born in Australia on September 23, 1916.

IF ONE trait above all others

were to be chosen to

characterise Lady Wheeler, it

would surely be her immense

which somehow always finally

prevailed, despite the many

sorrows by which her life was

beset. This was partly owing to

her ardent Roman Catholi-

cism and partly to a natural

resilience, since, as she always

used to say, "What fun it all

Margaret - Meg, Brownie

or Kim - as she was variously

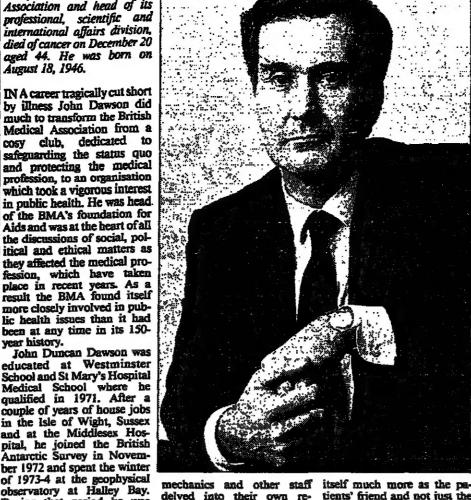
and more intimately known to

her many friends in all parts of

the world, was born in Sydney,

worked under the late Profes-

st for life, a joie de vivre



delved into their own resources to maintain their sometimes bleak weather con-

On his return home Dawson had intended to train as a general practitioner but his Aids, teenage contraception, fascination with medical ethin vitro fertilisation, diet, alics led him towards the BMA where he saw a chance to put some of his convictions into practice, Promoted under-secretary, at 35 the BMA's youngest ever, he was fortunate in the appointment of Dr John Havard as the association's film explored the ways in secretary, a man determined which Halley Bay's scientists, that the BMA should promote

tients' friend and not just the doctors' trade union. Dawenthusiasm for their task, in son's main contribution was to help produce a series of reports which covered most of

the burning medical-ethical issues of the past few years: cohol abuse, cervical cancer screening, smoking and alternative therapies. He was also good at getting publicity for these reports which stirred general as well as professional debate and began to change public perception of the medi-

dig at Pella in Jordan.

She only directed one dig on

her own account, when she excavated the tomb of Santa

Ruffina at a site near Rome,

but being, as she was, a first-

rate "trouper" and colleague,

she played a leading part in a

number of important digs.

These included those con-

ducted by Mortimer Wheeler,

when, as director general of

archaeology in India, he estab-

lished training schools at Ha-

rappa, Taxila, and

Mohenjodaro, and she went

with him on his exploratory

tours of Iran and Afghanistan.

She subsequently worked with

Dame Kathleen Kenyon at

Jericho and was closely con-

cerned with editing the defin-

itive publications on both

nent of her chosen subject, a

Jericho and Jerusalem.

shortly before her death, when role to which she was emi-

LADY WHEELER

Dawson's role was

for the last time she was nently suited in that, while

responsible for classifying and being widely read and ac-

cataloguing the pottery finds curately informed, her ap-

at the Australian University proach was essentially lively

modesty.

universally popular within the profession itself. As a frequently summoned "talking head" on medical ethics on television programmes he sometimes seemed to be inclined to steamroller the BMA's rank and file on issues preferred to make up their minds at leisure. His views on smoking, drinking and diet, too, made him few friends in the tobacco and food and drink industries. He was unrepentant over his criticism of what he regarded as cynical merchandising of unhealthy products.

Sometimes he did put his

his Aids campaign he was

widely quoted as saying that any one who had had a casual sexual encounter within the previous four years should "think twice" before giving blood. Catastrophic shortages for the transfusion service loomed and after a stormy meeting between Sir Donald Acheson the DHSS's chief medical officer and Dawson and his colleagues, the BMA was forced to climb down in a statement issued jointly with the DHSS, to the effect that the risk of a blood transfusion containing the Aids virus was "infinitesmal". This was a bruising defeat for Dawson who felt that an honest attempt to make a valid point had been misrepresented. Nevertheless he realised that a crusader must accept mistakes of this sort, though he was careful thereafter to rely much more on the BMA's sophisticated public relations department in the issuing of statements.

When cancer was diagnosed some months ago he accepted the discovery with good grace, remarking that the task of implementing change now acquired an even greater ur-

His marriage to Caroline Perry, by whom he had two daughters, was dissolved in 1987.

and entertaining rather than

erudite, a method to which her

Margaret Wheeler matried

twice. Her first marriage to

Bob Norfolk, commanding

officer of HMS Thorn came to

an abrupt end when the

submarine was lost at sea with

all hands during the second

world war, while her second,

to Sir Mortimer Wheeler (who

was much her senior), was

terminated informally by mu-

tual agreement in 1956. The

however, was the loss of her

only daughter, Elizabeth Nor-

the early age of 21.

great tragedy of her life,

#### JOHN HARRIOTT

priest and writer on Roman Catholic and ecumenical affairs, died on December 23 aged 57. He had been suffering from emphysema and related problems. He was born on January 2, 1933.

JOHN Harriott confessed in his final column in The Tablet that he was "someone who got an almighty kick out of both on which they would have the sacred and the secular celebrations of Christmas." That he went heaven-homewards in time to join better celebrations elsewhere is the divine irony he would have appreciated. Graham Greene said that Harriott's "Periscope" column was almost always the first thing he turned to in the Catholic weekly. That could have been foot in it as when in pursuit of said for most readers. Harriott was a born columnist, yet it took him a long time to discover his true vocation. He entered the Jesuit no-

vitiate at Rochampton in 1949 at an unusually young 161/2, naive and devoted to critics and to G. K. Chesterton. His father was bandmaster for the East Surrey Regiment. The war brought the family to Kingston and Harriott was sent to school with the Jesuits at Wimbledon College. That experience shaped the rest of

But he always claimed to be a northerner with roots in Darlington, It provided an impeccably orthodox Catholic background about which he seemed to have total recall. One uncle, a priest in Newcastle, figured in many of his columns. His first posting after ordination in 1965 was to the Jesuit retreat house of Rainhill in Lancashire. He had a degree in English from Oxford but did not aspire to theological learning and had no use for the scholastic philosophy still officially in vogue. That type of spiritual-ity always looked to him like a safe option. His vocation was to help ordinary people pas-torally, to "find god in all things" according to the Ignatian formula.

He was about to be made superior of the house when in papal encyclical banning artificial birth control, exploded. Harriott was caught in the fallout because he signed a letter to The Times on October 2, 1968, in which 55 Roman Catholic priests declared that "they could not in conscience give loyal internal and external obedience to the view. gift as a vivid reconteur gave that all such means of contraan added sparkle. She contrib- ception are in all circum-

uted several books on stances wrong." archaeology, all in a lighter This was a sincere but fatal her attitude was invariably the church. But he was not one of commendable drummed out. He left Rainhill to serve his sentence in a rustic limbo where he was forbidden to preach or get in touch with anyone. Within a year the absurdity of the situation was realised and he joined the staff of the Jesuit magazine The Month, on condition that he did not write on the taboo

topic. He made his first forays into reporting the Vatican, but only warmed to the theme during the 1971 synod on brought him into touch with many people find themselves. folk, who died of leukaemia at an international group of Jesuits who travelled the world him. There were no children.

John Harriott, former Jesuit stimulating local clergy and bishops to work for justice. The same concern also led him to live at the Catholic Institute of International Relations (CIIR), then in handsome delapidation in a mansion overlooking Regent's

MERNETHER

· He was now in a rather paradoxical situation, under a cloud with his English superiors yet so well regarded in Rome that in 1975 he was invited to write an introduction to the speeches of the-General of the Jesuits, Father Pedro Arrupe. In it he defined the Jesuit as someone who explores "every human activity to discern their traces of God, to sharpen and extend human vision, to encourage the sense of wonder in face of the mystery of man and the world about him." Even in his estrangement from the Jesuits he continued to do this until the end. But he was drifting irrevocably apart from his superiors in London. There was no one moment when this happened, and certainly no spectacular row. True, an article on church investment in South Africa proved embarrassing because Jesuit funds were lodged there. But Harriott was proved right and the investments were later removed. Harriott now began to argue

that by behaving unjustly the church was sawing off the branch on which it tried to sit, In an article called "The Suicide of Authority" he wrote that "any kind of window dressing, humbug, hollow rhetoric, lack of candour, false dealing or petty harrassment damages authority from within far more seriously than assaults from without." But when he left the Jesuits in 1978 he did not pose as a victim of authority. He soon found a post at the Independent Broadcasting Authority as contracts renewal officer, a job which involved travelling the country exorting the troops to ever higher professional standards and checking on the applications for franchise renewal. The move to television administration was a perfectly logical pro-July 1968 Humanae Vitae, the gression. He had served on a commission on the future of broadcasting and his wife, Shirley du Boulaye, was a BBC television producer. But his health, never good, made School House in Great Haseley, Oxfordshire, an increasing strain, so he took early retirement and moved to

north Oxford. Then began the most creative period of his life. He engaged in numerous literary vein, but towards these, as to move. Overnight Harriott be- projects, drafted speeches with Archbishop of Canterbury and wrote the script for a television film on Saint Ignatius. But he will be remembered chiefly as a columnist A selection of his pieces in The Tablet has just appeared in book form under the title Empire of The Heart. He could be perhaps unreasoningly savage about Mrs Thatcher or the Roman Curia, blimpish about the decline of the English village, sentimental about critics, and profound about how God worked justice which became his in ordinary people. He was a dominant concern. This radical remantic who helped His wife, Shirley, survives

#### of the distinguished Collingridge family. But she was educated in England, archaeology began in 1935 In later life Margaret which remained her permawhen she joined Mortimer Wheeler established a wellnent home, even during her Wheeler's dig at Maiden Casmerited reputation as an expo-

Andrew Lenox-Conyngham

sor John Ward Perkins and

the late Dr Molly Cotton at

the British School, and

throughout her extensive trav-

els, notably in Australia, the

near East, Afghanistan, India

Her life-long interest in

and Nepal.

sojourn in Rome when she tle, and continued until

#### Christianity gains power as emperor suffers humiliation

events in the history of the Christian church took place one thousand, six hundred years ago.

On Christmas Day in the year 390 the Roman emperor Theodosius received communion in the cathedral of Milan, at that time the capital of the western empire, from the hands of the great St Ambrose, the bishop of the city. That in itself may not seem particularly striking - Theodosius, one of the few Roman emperors to receive the title of the Great", was a strong Catholic Christian

However, that Christmas marked the end of a period of several weeks during which the emperor had been debarred by St Ambrose from receiving the sacrament. What could have occasioned such a prohibition imposed upon the Christian emperor and why had the emperor submitted to this instead of, as might have happened, sending the audacious bishop into exile, or

worse? The setting was the Roman empire of the late fourth century, a few years before the Sack of Rome in 410 by the Goths. At the start of that century the Emperor Constantine had been converted to Christianity and the Christian church, from being a persecuted minority, became a favoured religion. In 380 Theodosius declared Christianity to be the official religion of the empire. The empire was in decline

Contrasted with this was the

ONE of the most momentous confident and emergent Later centuries saw this survived so many centuries of of the church's power than church-state relations for Centuries.

slaughtered. When he heard of which Christian rulers were the massacre, Bishop Am- expected to adhere. However brose, who knew the emperor often princes in the following personally, wrote him a letter centuries were to fall short of

firmness and diplomatic tact. The bishop made it clear that the emperor was to sacrament again Such a thing was a genuinely religious man

public penitent before the eyes ing it. of the wondering congregation, who made intercession for him in their prayers. At Christmas he was readmitted to communion again.

church, conscious of its spir- incident as a "triumph of the itual power and of having church over the state" but it survived so many centuries of was not so regarded at the persecution. Nobody contrib-time and it is a mistake to see uted more to the strengthening it in that light. It certainly marked a turning-point in the Bishop Ambrose and the year relations between the church 390 saw an event which was to and the state but that was influence the course of almost incidental.

Ambrose was concerned not to increase the political power In the summer of that year a of the church but to demriot had occurred in Thessa- onstrate that the moral law of lonica in which the com- God was binding on all Chrismandant of the city, a friend tians, irrespective of their of the emperor, had been rank. Theodosius had the killed. In a fit of rage Theodo-greatness of mind to recognise sius ordered a terrible revenge; this and, by his acceptance of seven thousand of the popula-tion of the city were to be establish a new standard to that is a model of pastoral this standard, it was never foreotten.

Christian standards and principles have now become undergo nothing less than the commonplace assumptions of humiliation of public penance our society, acknowledged by before he could receive the Christian and non-Christian alike The incident of Thessawas unheard of - bishops had lonica and its aftermath been used to taking their contributed to this change of orders from the emperors, not atmosphere probably more emperors from bishops. De- than any other single incident spite his faults. Theodosius in the history of the Church. Christmas 390 was a

and to his credit he submitted. vindication of the emperor's For several weeks he laid action in undergoing public aside the imperial insignia and penance no less than of sat during the services as a Ambrose's courage in impos-

> The author is fellow and chaplain of St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

#### Appointments in the Forces

Nepture 4.5.91: R.C. Serward - MOD London 17.5.91: R.C. Serward - MOD London 17.5.91: P.F.R. Tolicy - Warrior 17.5.91: CHAPLAIN. D W W Thomas - Brazen 15.12.90.

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LIEUTENANT COLONELS: M & Coper RA MARCO, MAR

6.1.91.

Alt Vice-Marshal P Dodworth OSE
AFC to be Head of British Defence
Staff and Detence Attache in WashIngton in April 1991 in succession to
Major General E H A Becket MBE.
Rayal AF Forse
WING CREMANDER: P Calbins — To
MOD London: D B Conneth — To 13
MU Chilmark: M G L Wookinder — To
Stafford.

Stafford.

British

**Psychological** Society The following members of the British Psychological Society have been elected fellows and

are permitted to use the designa-DOR FDE'SS.

P PJ Barnard, Cambridge: Dr J.R Bench. Lefcester; Dr S.E. Califfes.
Northern Breland: Dr R.J. Cameron.
Southampsion. Dr D. Carrott, Glastown.
Northern Welge, Bheffreid: Dr M.J.
Davidson. Manchester; Nr E.M. Emerson, Manchester; Dr M.J.A.
Howe, Devire: Dr C. Hulme. Vork:
Professor C W. Hutmohvers. Bitminghom: Brofessor A. Katsabaden. Decison: Brofessor A. Katsabaden. Deci-Professor G. Hultine, Vork:
Professor G. Hultine, Bitmlinglingth; Professor A. Rakabudae, Bedford, Dr. M. D. Kopetinas, Lordon,
Dr. N. R. C. Leng, Landon, Or. I.G.
McCherson, Numeston: Dr. S.H. Ns.
New Zepland: Professor K. Onfey,
Clasgort: Dr. J. Patrick, Cardiff,
Professor J. T. Reusen, Manchester,
Dr. T. W. Netedna, Cambridges, Dr. S.H.
Schongman, New Zeeland: Dr. A.B.
Storngeried, London: Dr. A.J., Wilblus, CAmbridge,

#### Cranwell graduations

General Sir Richard Vincent
GBE KCB DSO, Vice Chief of
the Defence Staff, was the
Reviewing Officer at the graduation of 104 officers of No 129
Initial Officer Training Course
and 14 officers of No 239
Specialist Entrant and Re-entrans Course from the Royal Air. trant Course from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell on December 20.

Fying Officer R B H Hodson: Flying Officer R Rawmster.
Pilot Officer M Allinson MEng: Pilot Officer A D Bacon BSC: Pilot Officer A D Bacon BSC: Pilot Officer A N Blythe BENg: Pilot Officer R J G Brother BENg: Pilot Officer R J C Ginson BA; Pilot Officer B J G China BA; Pilot Officer B J G China BA; Pilot Officer B Hall BENg: Pilot Officer W J C China BA; Pilot Officer B Hall BENg: Pilot Officer D M D McShitamine BSC: Pilot Officer D M D McShitamine BSC: Pilot Officer B M Reed BSC: Pilot Officer D M D McShitamine BSC: Pilot Officer P J Websiter BSC: Pilot Officer T R Website BSC: Pilot Officer T R Websiter BSC: Pilot Officer S C Gooder, Acting Pilot Officer S C Gooder, Acting Pilot Officer S R Jones Acting Pilot Officer K R Morran. General Dates Brunch N Newpotor Flying Officer R P Dainy BSc: Flying Officer B G Lynch. Administrative Branch - Calering Firms Officer R Punshin BA WRAF. Pilot Officer J C Barrett BSc WRAF: Pilot Officer A C E Mann. Becurity Branch - RAF Regiment
Pilot Officer R A Davies.
Acting Pilot Officer G Calvert: Acting
Pilot Officer J M Cavars! Acting Pilot
Officer M S Powell.

General Outles (Ground) Branch - Air

Acting Pilot Officer F J Robertson WRAF. Acting Pilot Officer J Winters WRAF. Acting Pilot Officer A L Wyld WRAF.

Fixes Officer J P Brown BEns. The Group Captain Williams' Me. Fixes Officer J P Brodenes; Flying Water Tensey, Fight Liquid and A R

Modical Branch

Squadron Leader C C H Cook BSc MB

BS MRCPSych Squadron Leader K C

Hammond MB BS MRCP (US) FRCS

Squadron Leader A R Houlder MB

CRB FRCSEd FRCSEnd: Squadron

Leader M A H Lalivala PM

BS

OTMSH: Squadron Leader Mant P

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Squadron Leader Mant P The British Aircraft Corporation Tro-phy: Plying Officer D L Lewis.

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Foreign and Con-

THE following is the text of the Queen's Christmas message to

Britain and the Common-

Over the years, I have dwelt on the happier side of life in my. Christmas broadcasts — we

need reminding of it, particularly at Christmas time. This year, there have been, I hope, times of happiness and good cheer for most of us.

My family, for instance, has

been celebrating my mother's 90th birthday, and we have shared with you the joy of some of those celebrations. My youngest grandchild's christening.

two days ago, has brought the family together once again. I hope that all of us lucky enough to be able to enjoy such gatherings this Christmas will releasing the statement of the statement of

take time to count our blessings.

For it seems to me that there is one deep and overriding

anxiety for us all on which we

should reflect today. That is the

threat of war in the Middle East.

The servicemen in the Gulf who are spending Christmas at their

posts under this threat are much

in our thoughts. And there are

many others, at home and

abroad, servicemen and civilians, who are away from their

own firesides. Wherever they

are, may they all, when their

duty is done, soon be reunited

with their families safe and

At the same time we must remember those still held hos-

tage. Some of them have spent

years in captivity and Christ-

mas must for them be especially

hard to bear. My heart goes out

to them and to their families.

We can, at least, rejoice at the

safe return of many of their compatriots over the last weeks,

and salute the courage which

civil disturbance inevitably

cause thousands of innocent

people to become refugees and

to have their lives ruined or

disrupted. It is difficult for us,

safe at home, to contemplate

the scale of the suffering for

homeless and hungry people caused by the ever-widening

consequences of the crisis in the

an example on an international

scale of an evil which has beset

us at different levels in recent

years - attempts by ruthless

people to impose their will on

the peaceable majority. In ex-

treme form, as we know only

The invasion of Kuwait was

Wars, threats of wars and

they have shown.

wealth:

nment, 200ut 10,000 Supporters hed here to demand even r charge sident Lee said the natists would before rescind a 42 year-old sency declaration issued. g the tivil war and . lete a process of consti-12! retter We hope n the shemest period of that is to say, perore May year, we will declare an to the pence of comst received he told the mai Assembly.

e reforme would help to he stage to the eventual fication of Taiwan with sand China and meet ing demands for democivisions under the decla-0. 185482 (22) before the malist go imment lon or and first Talwan in . BIVE SWEETPING POWERS IO residency and freeze in hundreds of ageing legers elected in China, weide mit tetum to g al constitutional system, strengthen the operation e constitution is will be to entablish a foundation

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The Queen's Speech



communities. In the United Kingdom, we have suffered once again during the past year from the scourge of terrorism, its disregard for human life and its efforts to dress its crimes in political clothes,

But all this is nothing new. The tributes we paid last summer to the heroes of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain were tributes to their achievement in repelling a determined invader.

That was 50 years ago. Nowadays there are all too many causes that press their claims with a loud voice and a strong arm rather than with the language of reason. We must not allow ourselves to be too discouraged as we confront them. Let us remember that Christ did not promise the earth to the powerful. The resolve of those who endure and resist these activities should not be underestimated. I never cease to admire the stoical courage of those in Northern Ireland, for example, who go about their business in defiance of the violent hands is often an in- closer. spiration to the rest of us. Then

too well, these attempts lead to disaster and death, and their unanimous opposition of the tragic aftermath for families and international community to the international community to the unprovoked invasion of Ku-

celebrate this season safely with

our families.

A happy Christmas and God again, I, like many others, was

# The Queen: reflecting on the Middle East

wait, and by the speed with which moves were made to try to relieve the plight of the innocent victims. I want, therefore, to say thank

you today to the men and women who, day in and day out, carry on their daily life in difficult and dangerous circumstances. By just getting on with the job, they are getting the better of those who want to harm our way of life. Let us think of them this Christmas, wherever they are in the world, and pray that their resolution remains undiminished. It is they and their kind who, by resisting the bully and the tyrant, ensure that we live in the sort of world in which we can

I pray also that we may all be blessed with something of their spirit. Then we would find it easier to solve our disputes in peace and justice, wherever they occur, and that inheritance of the earth which Christ promterrorist. The reaction of those ised, not to the strong, but to the who have lost loved ones at meek, would be that much

### Roman way to urban planning

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ROMAN towns and fortresses in Britain were laid out using a common modular grid, according to a new theory. Multiples of tens or hundreds of Roman feet can be detected in the plans of cities such as Silchester and Colchester, or legionary for-tresses such as that at Inchtuthil

on Tayside.
The idea has been widely discussed over the past decade and the latest model has been developed by Philip Crummy, director of the Colchester Archaeological Trust. In what he calls "a more, visual approach" to the problem, a theoretical layout is super-imposed on a plan of the actual

site.
Mr Crummy says that the test
is demanding "since it pre-

despite any localised discrepancies".

The method uses that staninches, and looks for dimensions which are simple mul-tiples of 5, 10 and 100 feet. "The street plan of the fortress at Colchester can be rationalised in terms of strips 200 and 300 Roman feet wide," Mr Crummy says, while the later Inchtuthil fortress uses mainly 300ft modules, although there are also some strips of only 60ft wide.

"The 300ft dimension appears to be almost universal, and occurs in those parts of the fortresses which contain bar-

nounced favourably in the

second inquiry; and on January 6, 1904, the following year, Plus X was presented for the first time at a meeting

of that Congregation in the Vatican, when the solemn

decree, declaring Joan of Arc

to have practised heroic virtues, was read.

Finally, on November 24

of this year, in the presence of

the Pope, was read the decree

which closed the third in-

supposes a high degree of racks," he says. At Inchtuthil accuracy across the entire plan, so it continues to make sense probably only a product of the probably only a product of the fact that each block of six barracks occupied a space which was close to a square.

illar use of the 25ft mo ule can be seen in the plan of Silchester, near Reading, Mr Crummy believes that the city blocks running north-south used a 300ft module, with one of 450ft for the central strip that included the forum, and the east-west strips of the same blocks were 275ft or 425ft.

"The metrological analysis of the plans of towns and fortresses in this way may help to locate any fortresses which await discovery under out Roman towns," Mr Crummy says.

#### DECEMBER 26 ON THIS DAY 1908

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Joan of Arc was burned at the stake as a witch and heretic on May 30 1431 in Rouen. In 1456 the proceedings of her trial were annulled and in 1876 the "cause" of her beatification was introduced; the final recognition of her martyrdom was her canonisation in 1920.

BEATIFICATION OF JOAN OF ARC ROME, DEC. 22.

The first name on the list of beatifications for next year is that of Joan of Arc; and on April 18 the solemn ceremony will take place in St Peter's declaring the admit-tance of the Maid of Orleans to the ranks of those who await the final canonisation by the Church ...

It was not until January 27, 1894, that the cause received the sanction of Leo XIII, and the three separate inquiries were commenced which are necessary, according to the prescriptions of Benedict XIV, to establish a right to beatification. These that I loan were to prove, first, that Joan of Arc had never been the object of public worship; secondly, that she had practised the cardinal and divine virtues on a heroic scale; thirdly, that after her death

miracles had been wrought by her intercession.
On June 23, 1898; the Tribunal of the Rota gave judgment in favour of the cause in the first inquiry, that of non cultu. Shortly before

Conferment of tistes

Conference of the The title of professor emeritus has been conferred on the following: Dr John Banfield, professor of continuing education from 1987 to 1990. Mr David (Peter) Devlin, professor of English literature from 1986 to 1990. Dr John Holding, professor of agricultural and food bacteriology from 1979 to 1987 and professor of food and agricultural microbiology from 1987 to 1990. Mr Geoffiey Hornsey, professor of public law from 1978 to 1990. Dr George Irwin, professor of general practice from 1971 to 1990. Dr Anthony Valentine, professor of pactiatric and preventive dentistry from 1982 to 1990.

quiry and declared miracles to have been performed through the intercession of Joan of Arc. The miracles, New grants and contracts: three in number, and of Professor R.S. Swift (Soil Science), £110,219 from the AFRC—influence of soil organic constituents on the retention and transcomparatively recent date, consisted in the healing of incurable diseases in the cases of three nuns who had sought Joan of Arc's intercession. On December 13, in the

hall of the Consistory in the Vatican took place the publication of the decrees of beatification, and among them that of Joan of Arc. In his answer to the thanks tendered him by Mgr.
Touchet, on behalf of the
French Catholics, the Pope declared that he regarded the Maid of Orleans as the personification of chivalrous France, ever generous, and ever ready to sacrifice herself

for a noble aim. The Osservatore Romano, in explanation, enters upon an historical disquisition in which the English nation and Pierre Chauchon, the un-worthy Bishop of Beauvais, play very sorry parts. With-out disputing as to who was most responsible for the burning of Joan one may at least remark that her memory was cleared and venerated in

#### University news

from the Medical Research Coun-cil — molecular biology of polio and related viruses: neurovirulence, antigenicity and vaccine development. Professor T.R. Addis (Computer Science), £122,988 from the SERC — the practical integration of knowledge-based scheduling system with a semiconductor manufacturing system.

chemicals.

Dr R Barclay (Microbiology) and

Dr A.J. Lax (Institute of Animal

Health, Compton), £146,466 from

the AFRC — role of macrophages

in the pathogenesis of

salmonellosis.

Professor J.W. Almond (Microphology), £752,300 from the

Professor J.W. Almond (Microbiology), £252,300 from the AFRC — prion protein variation in the spongiform encephalopathies.

Professor J.W. Almond (Microbiology) and Dr P.D. Minor (National Institute for Biological Standards and Control), £800,607 from the Medical Research Compeller biology of polio

printing.

Professor K. Codling and Dr L.J.

Fransinski (Physics), £155,416

from the SERC — the coulomb

explosion of molecules in intense

port of synthetic organic

manufacturing system.

Professor K. Warwick and Dr R.J.

Mitchell (Cybernetics), £177,057
from the SERC — operator interface for advanced security

Quesa's University of Belfast

James 220d, 1991.

HARMS - On December 21st et Prince Charles Hongies, Merthyr Tydell, Tegwyn Dewen, samuel Benneser of Vagner Penderyn School. Princeral service at Liwyddoed Communium. Abenhave 23/m Friday Desember 20th. Family Howen solly.

MATY - On December 20th. 1990, Eloom Mary Lestes, December 20th. 1990, Eloom Mary Lestes, December of Etrabeth. John, Anthony, and Susan. Funeral Service takes place at St Edwardshiptry Cambedral, Bury St Edwardshiptry Cambedral, Bury St Edwards, on Wellenberg, Cambedral, Bury St Edwards, on Wellenberg, St Edwards, On Helberghen, St Edwards, On Helberghen, Dewender 14th, Irangelik, and Breathy of Herman Of the St County College, Cambedral School, and Breathy of Cambedral School,

MODIFIANT - On DATE December 1999 rescriptly of house.

Louise. Laid to rest on December 21st, 1990.

BLIAMS - On December 21st, beautiful In her siesp, at Adduction. Devous. Durothe With of Charles Hillard and the late George Pains of Southeers, bluch loved mother of Compan and Carodinother and Great Grandmother. Pumeral ground Grandmother, Pumeral Service at St. Andrews Church. Ashburton. on Friday December 28st at 12 noon. Cat flowers only please or domainer if whited in the Rouns British Lapins. C/O Funeral Directors. Walker and Caronic Ashburton. Tel:0364-52441. Guelly Service. Press
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BERT - penertelly on 19th December at home at Leiton Coon. Humaford. Doner. May Advance. wife of Dr Droner. Cri vendor and moner of John. Richard and Schwert. Bertal at 11.70mm on 3rd January. Family Dovers only.

co Srd January. Family
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and respected by all who leave hist. Flueral private.

1990. peacehulty. Kathleen (Kr.) beloved wife of the last within Mackeszie Robb. dearly leved mother of Alison and Andrew, and a leving strandmonter. Flueral Service at the Miti Warwickshire Crematorrium. Oakley Wood, on Monday, December Sist, at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only.

1990 peacehulty. Caroline Rubens beloved wife of Charles, mother of James. Adme. and the late Catherine and grandmother of Mark. Jason. Thuma and Glead. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium. Hoop Lame, NW11. Thursaday December 27th at 2.30pm. No flowers. Douations if desired to N.S.P.C.C.

STEPHEN - On Saturday ARRAZIMOLY Chase Sarue world-wide Jupder 071-436 2711 Ven/Accoun/Amen/Diners AMAZIMOLY Chase fares world-wide Juples 071-436 2711 Vish/Accoun/Amen/Diners N.S.P.C.C.
STEPMEN - On Saturday
December 22nd., quistly, and 57 in Jerney, C.I., Joyce
Adice Stephen (formerly
Biasell Thomas, nice Steurt)
beloved mother of JEI,
Jeffray, and Camilla.
Pumeral private. No flowers,
Donations to MacAdillan
Nurses, Anchor House, 15
Britten St. London SW3.
MRSET - On December 20th

or John and Caristins (nife Todorovich) a son, Nicholes John.

COOKSGM - On December 18th to Cherry Cookson, a son. Gilver Luite, a brother for Witiam.

COOFER - On December 20th to Behnda (nef Firth) and Patrick, a son Christopher.

CONY - On Documber 14th. 1990 to Shiriny-Anne (nef Fraser) and Hugh, a son, Cilver Occar David, a brother for Max.

FELTZ - On December 4th to Kathryn and Eusphan, a daughter. Sanha Louise, QUICHE - On December 20th to Hong Kong to Jane and Martin, a son, Samuel, Samasolds - On December 2:1411990 at The Matilia.

ZEMBROUSE - On December 2:1411990 at The Matilia Hongits, Hong Kong to Liz (nide Whithfield) and Colin, a daughter. Rebecca Care, a sister for Katie.

WALLER - On December 2:rd and Inn, a son, Juck, a brother for Almee and Max. Within St. Lendon SWS.
Widit - On December 20th
1990, peacehalty, William
aged 84 years of Port Erin,
laic of Man. Loved husband
of Jessie, late of Tockini
Experimental station, John.
Amenn. Donations if so
desired to Rushen
Emergency Ambulance. C/O
Ken Quine, Station Road,
Port Erin, life of Man. Harr, Calcum, Kahleer, Pocksonssyoning, Frank and Freda, December, 26th 1940 at St Michaely, Dertuys,

RESS - On December 19th 1990, Dr Nior Rais of the London Hospital and Moorfields, pencefully in his slaces at Hobbourne Nursing Home, beloved husband of Bunuy and Eather of Robert, and respected by all who knew him. Funeral private.

Jerusalem, Jerusalemi You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent your. and so your Tampile will be abandoned and

empty. St. Matthew 25 : 37,39 GNB

BIRTHS

BOOTH - On December 22nd. to John and Christine (see Todorovitch) a son, Nichola

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

CELLETY/SHEVLIN OR December 26th 1940, at St. Patricks Church, Part William, Calculin, Dick to Kathleen.

DEATHS

BAMER - On December 21st Herbert Allisite Edmondes after a short librors in hospital. Cressation at Chichester, January 3rd 2,50pm. Parally flowers only

Port Erin, isle of Man,

TRUMBLE - On Documber
20th, peacensity at home at
Hartiey Wintney, Marguerite
Adela, widow of the late
Alexander Thomas Trumble,
Much loved mother of Glean
and Marguret, Grandmother
to Ross. Moray, Angus,
James and Nichoise, Private
filmeral, Memorial Service on
the late of Wight to be
announced.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

or donations to Friends of St. Richards Hospital. BLACKSHAW - On December Richards Hospital.

BLACKSHAW - On December 20th 1990, peacrhilly, at East Cheshtre Housice, Nicoto Disans Hackshaw (nice Gebolys) beloved wife of Caristian and mother of Krystoff, Juliette, Larises and Elena. Funeral service at St Philips, Alderiey Edge at 11.30 a.m. December 28th, no Blowers please, donations to East Cheshtre Hospice, Milliank Drive, Macclesfield.

BOSLENG - On December 1 SEMMELEY - Lennox Rends SEMELEY - Lennox Randul Franch. composer and teacher. May 12th 1903 -December 25th 1989. R.L.P. WHITE-SMITH - In sweetest memory of my dearest husband. Bir Henry White-Bmith. C.B.E. December 25th 1943. Forever in my heart - Millicent.

Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone. For publication the

following day please telephone by 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, 4pm Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday for Monday's paper. 071 481 4000

to East Cheshire Hospice, Milliant Drive, Macciestield, BOULDSNG - On December 25rd, 1990, benerfully. Michael Khilisoff-Boulding, beloved son of Rory and Marina, brother to Alexia, browd and heiged by many, Cremailion Service on Thursday, January 3rd 12 soon at the Tunbridge Wells Cremailorium, 'And He leads His children on bo the place where He is gone,' CAPTYN - On Saturday, Documber 22nd, pacefully in his \$2nd year, at \$2. Line // Norwell Farmi, New York, Hareld, deleved humberd of the left May, Chambers O.B.E. RN, benefully on December 21st at her home in Deurscher, Wills, Loved by all her family. Funeral activity Friday January 4th 1991, 11.15am at Salbabury Crematorium. Funding Decembers only. Dements on Funding Decembers on Funding 11.15am at Salbabury Crematorium. Funding Decembers on The RALLI College of the Ralling Committee on The RALLI College of the Ralling Committee of the Ralling College of the Rallin ANNOUNCEMENTS Crematorium. Seitsbury
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Crearchfeids Rd. Saldsbury
SS2 7748. THEIRS SELECTION PROPERTY IN THE SELECTION OF THE SELECTI SP2 7NH.

CLAIR. On Occurator Card, peacefully at home. Wilfred Harry (SID), loved inspead of Luciscene and latine of Jasis. The funeral will be held at the Courts of St. Laurence. Laure

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SERVICES

1990 posorfally at lesses.
John Bovill aged 65 years.
John Bovill aged 65 years.
Posteria ervice in St Michaels Church, Gitthesen.
Devon on Friday 28th December 2.50ps. Memorial service to be announced later.

MARCE - On December 24th.
1990, at home stern a short liness. Colonel Peter hierarchia Himser OBE. 11th Hussars (P.A.O.). Private handly transral. By request, no flower or letters pieces.
Decations, to his manary, to St. Josta Ambatance, may be sent to Camp Homes, 6-12 Northbrook Street.
Historica, Martin, A service of St. Mary the Virgin.
Chieveley, at 2.50pm on January 22nd, 1991.

MARCES - On December 21st of DATELINE GOLD

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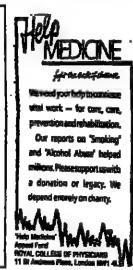
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# Boxing day at Flannan rock



In a 90-year-old mystery, the father of Anna Ducat

(above) disappeared from his lighthouse.

Joan Simpson reports

he Flannan Isles are a wild and lonely place, no more than seven jagged rocks clawing out of a boiling ocean which batters cruelly at the bleak and craggy outcrops. Atlantic waves higher than houses explode against them and hold the secret of a tragedy which happened there 90

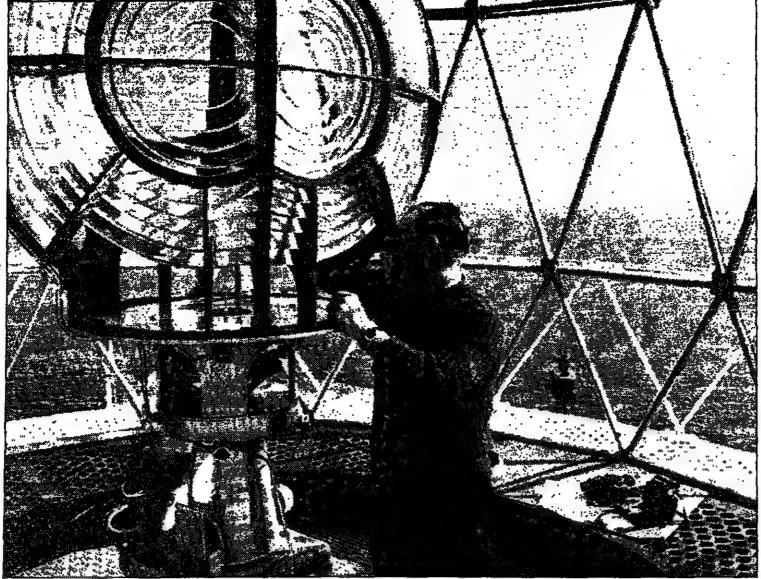
years ago.

On the largest rock a lighthouse stands silent witness to the tragic events which deprived Anna Ducat of her father when she was just eight years old. Today Miss Ducat, now 98 and living in Edinburgh, is believed to be the last direct link with the mystery that has passed into legend among the superstitious folk of the Outer Hebrides, and which has been immortalised in an epic poem by W.W. Gibson.
Miss Ducat's father, James Ducat, was one of the three keepers

of the Flannan Isles lighthouse who vanished without trace on a dark December Saturday in 1900. Their disappearance has never been fully explained. There have been fantastic tales of madness and murder. But in the end, it is most likely a story of stoicism and duty, perhaps of heroism, and almost certainly of a merciless sea which played a final cruel trick on the three men.

The tragedy was discovered on Boxing Day, when the lighthouse ship Hesperus called on a routine visit. It was about noon and the crew were surprised that the tiny rock showed no sign of life. The landing stage was not prepared for the ship, the flagstaff was bare and there was no response when they fired a rocket, though it should have brought the keepers running out.

Against the heavy swell of the sea boat was lowered and Joseph Moore, the relieving keeper, was landed to scramble up the hundreds of steps hewn out of the precipitous cliffs above the landing stage. His own report of the time states: "On entering the kitchen . . . I saw that the fire had not been lighted for some days, I then entered the rooms in succession, found the beds empty



Dark secret: today the Flaman light is automated, so there is no longer a permanent crew at the station to ponder the fate of its predecessors

just as they had left them ..." Alarmed and distraught he "darted back" to the boat to fetch the others but "unfortunately the first impression was only too true". The clock had stopped, the lamp was trimmed and clean ready for lighting. Some accounts say a meal of salted mutton and boiled potatoes lay on the table, half caren, and a chair was toppled over on the floor. Official reports state that the kitchen had been tidied after the midday meal. But of the keepers there was no sign.
Gibson describes the chill mo-

ment of discovery in his poem: Of the three men's fate we found

Of any kind in any place But a door ajar and an untouch'd

And an overtoppled chair. Sea boots and oilskins belonging to two of the men were missing from the hook in the cupboard, but the third man must have run out in his shirt sleeves, perhaps toppling the chair in his haste.

The lighthouse station's routine had carried on normally until December 15. The official report from the investigating superintend-ent tells us: "The last entry on the siate had been made by Mr Ducat, the Principal keeper on the morning of Saturday 15 December. The lamp

was trimmed, the oil fountains and canteens were filled up and the lens and machinery cleaned which proves that the work of the 15th had been completed."

Muirhead, had persuaded Ducat to take on the job as principal when the Flannan Isles light had first been lit a year earlier, and had, with a heavy heart, recorded that he had visited the Flannans only a week before the disappearance, and that:
"I have the melancholy recollection that I was the last person to shake hands with them and bid them

Ducat remembers her father's reluctance to go to the Flannans. "He said it was too dangerous, that he had a wife and four children depending on him, but Mr Muirhead persuaded him because he had such firth in him as a good and reliable keeper.

The Ducat family lived at Breasclete, a shore station on the island of Lewis. About 15 miles to the west were the Flannan Isles and the lighthouse, built on the largest of the seven rocks, only 800 yards long and 500 yards wide.
Miss Ducat clearly remembers

the day her father left Breasclete for

the last time, "It was a lovely sunny

day and my brother Arthur and I

were playing in the high walled

house and picked each of us in his arms and gave us a hug and a kiss, then he walked very quickly away up the road. We ran after him shouting 'Daddy, Daddy' and he stopped at the road end and waited for us, picked each of us up again and gave us another kiss. I have always wondered if he had some kind of premonition that he would never see us again." Oblivious to the coming tragedy

gardens. My father came out of the

the Ducats busily prepared for a late Christmas, wrapping presents for their father, due home at the end of the month. "We were so excited because there was to be a wedding on the island on Hogmanay and we children had never been to one."

iss Ducat is still willing to listen to new theories about what befell her \_father and his two companions — the assistant keeper Thomas Marshall and an occasional keeper, Donald McArthur, who came from the island of Lewis and was doing duty for a third keeper who was on sick leave. But the is not impressed by the functful stories of phantoms or giant seabirds plucking the men to their deaths. She prefers a more straighforward conclusion. Six months before the tragedy, the keepers had been fined five

shillings by the commissioners because landing tackle at the west landing stage had been damaged during a storm. Severe weather had lashed the island during December and the keepers worried that similar

damage might occur again.
So when the winds moderated on
Saturday, December 15, Mr Ducat
and Mr Marshall dutifully went to inspect what damage had been done and make repairs. They donned boots and cilskins and left Donald McArthur in the kitchen.

Perhaps only McArthur, being a local, would have known about the freak wave pattern that builds up in the gully under the west landing stage after severe storms, and which sends a sudden torrent of sea tearing up the cliff face to crash against the stage. Maybe he remembered, suddealy, and ran out in shirt sleeves to warn his companions, only to be caught with them as the sea swept them to their deaths. Keepers continued to serve on the

Flannans until 1971, when the light was automated. Those who served there after the tragedy must have reflected often on Gibson's lines:

Though not a word was said Three men alive on Flannan Isle Who thought on three men dead.

# Oh come now, all ye fanciful

Why do so many perpetuate the myth of a very miserable Christmas?

YOU woke up this morning with an appalling hangover. You are carrying an extra inch on the waist and the turkey sandwich marathon has not even started. Your home is full of unwanted pairs of socks (men) and gift-wrapped toiletries (women). The atmosphere is a touch charged for a variety of reasons, delete where applicable: you never did get on with your mother/father-inlaw, why do they always have to stay at Christmas? You always knew that your spouse fancied that woman/man that he/she talked to for an hour at the party on Christmas Eve, but does it have to be quite so obvious? And, finally (for now), if you want to spend half of Boxing Day at a football match that's your business, sniff, but if you want lunch early you can cook it yourself. All of that describes a

to everyone reading this. Familiar from their own experience? Unlikely, Who still drinks excessively at Christmas? Who still eats too much? Who fights with the inlaws, the spouse, the children? Who still collapses on Christmas Day having spent "a month in the shops", as I overheard someone say re-cently? How many of our presents, even the socks, really bring cries of despair and mutterings about wasted money and crazy aunts? A tremendous myth has

scenario that will be familiar

been built around this time of year: the myth is that we hate it. To support this myth we have invented a tome of anecdotal evidence. We are said to rush around the shops at 5pm on Christmas Eve, by which time most of them are empty, or closed, or staffed by eenagers wearing streamers. We are, supposedly, up to here with opening the door to carol singers. Oh come now, all ye fanciful. We are still banging on about the fact that Christmas "starts too early". Just as well, if it is so frantic.

Are we all hung over this morning? Aside from some people who regard Christmas as an excuse to get legless, who



may drink a bit more than usual, but then Christmas is a fairly static, and long, holiday for most people, so there are fewer driving considerations and fewer calls on the intellect. Are we really making foois

of ourselves with the neighbour's, or anyone else's, spouse? Even office parties, which used to be morally hazardous in a big way, now seem far less likely to be followed by divorce petitions and "look, about last night" evasions upon our return to work.

Thousands of us go abroad for Christmas, Object: to get away from it all. You hear people say: oh, we can't stand another Christmas here, we're going to . . . Austria. Austria? Well that's one way to get on the cover of a Christmas card. The people who have gone away will also have told us that of course you have to plan in advance because the presents have to be distributed to the poor devils who aren't getting away.

AND then there is the baggage allowance, which is a crucial factor because the people who are getting away from it all are taking most of it with them, to give to the people who are getting away from it all with them. Owning up about Christmas

is way overdue. We like it, don't we? A few years ago I avoided spending Christman in Saudi Arabia by the skin of my teeth. All the people who did not come back to Britain said, "Oh dear, I wouldn't be you, that's one thing about England I don't miss"

When I returned to Saudi after Christmas, I was dining out for a week on tales of what it was like, what Regent Street looked like, who gave what to whom, and so forth. They didn't miss it? Not haif.

Since then, whenever the cliched attitude to Christmas threatens to overwhelm me, I think of Christmas in Saudi Arabia. This year, that is a comparison we could all bear in mind. Come on, pull your socks up.

want to give them role models

also find it useful. There is a £5 a night payment on offer to

hosts, which is often not

PETER BARNARD

#### Turkey's off: dining with a real cook on Boxing Day is not for the delicate

#### FOR chaps who enjoy cooking and enting, Boxing Day is the time to launch a full attack. I mean, of course, chaps who enjoy cooking and eating real food, food which smells and tastes of something, food with cock, tripe and bloaters - and blood - in the case of hares, boudin and lampreys.

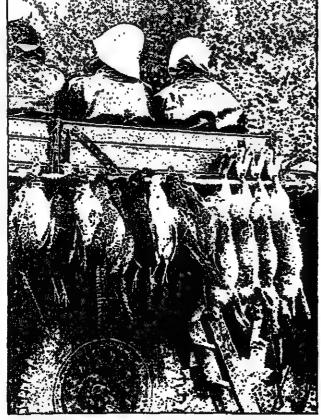
Christmas Day must be abandoned. It is impregnable. a bastion of the second-rate and tasteless, occupied by the massed troops of the LCD sect - the lowest common denominatorists, who would reduce any meal to the blandest taste. Not content with enshrining the domesticated turkey (a meat so vapid one only knows one has eaten it by watching the space appear where it was on the place), they are nervous that even this on its own might be too racy. So they dilute it with boring sauces and overcooked vegetables, the whole mess swimming in insipid gravy and yellow water leaking from understrained sprouts.

Why bother to urge them to a free range bird? The way they cook, it will not taste much better. Why bother to teach them to make proper gravy out of the meat juices and wine? It will be contaminated by dull sauces and sprout water.

No, Christmas lunch is irredeemable. In years of writing about food. I, like many, have been tempted to suggest ways of improving Christmas Day food. This is a waste of effort. Let the LCDs keep the 25th as the lowest spot of their miserable dictary year. But while they are recovering from an excess of the unexciting.

the 26th can be captured. So seize it. And make it a feast, the opposite of everything from the day before. That means, above all, food like good music or art, is often contentious, the more so in a country where so few know much about it. There should be at least one half-suppressed "urgh" or look of panic as the boudin is cut open, at least one

# Blood, guts and real food



Lunch is served: if possible, shoot your own game

thought to be mashed potato turns out to be a salt cod brandade hitting the back of the throat.

Your meal should also be the opposite of the Christmas lunch in its preparation. The LCDs like dishes which are which will offend. Good food, eat. Things come out of bags, packs, paper and plastic and are squeamishly slipped as quickly as possible into dishes, microwaves, foil or more plasbones on his plate, at least one shoot the hare, woodcock, or the funnel of the mincer, then

that they will be bought in the fur or feather, and fondled to see how and where they have

been shot. Game needs hanging in a cold spell, pheasant up to two weeks, hares three. Then there is the plucking, skinning and boring to prepare as well as gutting (but no gutting in the case of the woodcock, whose guts are left in and eaten spread on toast or fried bread

with a little Marc). Sausages provide lots of tic. The Boxing Day chaps, on scope for handling. There are the other hand, not only like the intestines to be de-salted, handling food, they like to be the pork to be held and person trying to hide his bit of involved with it as early as chopped, then minced, the hare's liver under the pile of possible. Best, of course, is to intestine to be threaded on to choking cough as what was partridges yourself. Failing stuffed, and tied. The salt cod

After poaching, only hands will efficiently separate flesh from bones, and no real food enthusiast, having mixed it up with the olive oil, milk and garlic, could put it aside without poking in a finger to Neapolitans eat eels on

wants two days of soaking

Christmas Eve. But if Boxing Day is to be the feast of handled and contentious food, there is a strong case for transferring their consump-tion to the 26th. They are bought live - Italian shops sell them, as do Chinese shops and will keep well and apparently happily in the bath until Boxing Day. Just run a little more water in two or three times a day to aerate them. Then just before cooking, lift them out with a cloth - they emit a sticky substance on touch which will enable them to slip out of bare hands - cut off their heads, gut them, slice them and fry them in olive oil

BUT if you really want an allout war with the LCDs, there is one thing which frightens them even more than food which tastes or needs handling
- smells. LCD kitchens either smell of nothing, or like a cross between a laboratory and a lavishly deodorised lavatory. Garlic, spices, salt fish, frying fish, or browning particularly bloody game will produce smells to upset them.

Best of all, something which combines lots of handling and smells and produces the finest Boxing Day dish, is sheep's tripe. Buy them unwashed from a friendly slaughterhouse. The preparatory boilng alone, quite apart from the final cooking, will flush out anyone with the slightest tendency to LCDism, not only in your house but up to three

doors away on either side. Yes, yes. I know all this advice comes too late for this year. But think. You have a full year to plan. And next Christmas Day you can confine yourself largely to alcohol and dream, as you watch them toying with the cardboard turkey, of the joy and devastation the morrow will bring.

### Happy (extended) families bean, South American - and

claustrophobic. At the season of goodwill to all men, many people find them-selves shut up for days, on a rich diet, with nobody but their own relations.

If dyspeptic feelings overwhelm you this morning, one solution might be worth considering for next time. It comes from an unlikely Santa Claus: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which three years ago joined the British Council and the Victoria League to set up a charity called Host. Tapping away at its dating-agency com-puter in a converted bedroom on the sixth floor of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Host links overseas students with British families prepared to have them to stay.

The Victoria League ran a similar, smaller scheme for Commonwealth countries be-fore 1987, but Host has a wider brief. The charity covers a hundred countries, and students from 18 to 58, with or without their families. One boy was sent from Borneo to Shropshire, where he compared techniques of bee-keeping with enthusiasm. A South Sea islander was given a taste of life on a cider-apple farm in Somerset, and innumerable baffled young Africans have been introduced to the con-

cept of mistletoe. Easy enough to see what this could do for the claustrophobia - and the guilt of overconsumption, and the family tensions. "You can't have a family row," says one hostess, "with a puzzled foreign face sitting at the table, can you?" But most host families - while acknowledging the definite usefulness of an outsider - rush impatiently on to hymn the greater benefits of the meeting. Such words as enriching, rewarding, humbling, hilarity, magic, and

thing - from decorating the house and tree to climbing a hill in the mist and icy wind," says Mary Richards from Wales. "We've had a lot of DIGBY ANDERSON Turks," says Phyllis Harris Susic Fairfax, "a single retired cultures - Thai, Afro-Carib-

privilege tumble from their

lips. "They enjoyed every-

If tensions do run high over the

holiday, why not invite someone new to calm the family feuding next year?



Merry Christmas? The Garnetts' festive façade in 1985

was a bit dubious about taking

with children, because she

wasn't used to them. By the

end of it they were calling her

relationship has commued."

popular with former colonial

families ("always had marvel-

lous hospitality in India, when

we were with the Indian

army," says the Chadburn

family from Somercet; "want

to return it") and with church

or scouting families who have

an interest in particular coun-

English Granny, and the

The charity is particularly

from Hampshire. "And some headmistress in East Anglia splendid Chinese. They al- was a bit dubious about taking ways have a stocking, and love on a South American family the candles in the church at midnight, I'd miss it dreadfully if ever I couldn't get

There are, of course, odd cultural glitches: Mrs Harris found the Nepalese habit of washing up under running water meant nobody got a hot bath for days. But Host matches up its families carefully, noting if they cannot meet conditions over such things as smoking or hala! mean, or if a student dislikes

dogs.

"Mind you," says Host's adopted children from other cultures - Thai, Afro-Carib-

taken, but enables less well-off families to join in. Host operates all year, but there is clearly something special about Christmas. Households which are nervous of taking students at other times relax; cultural or wealth differences which might seem embarrassing are swallowed up in the rituals and general present-giving abundance of Christmas. "I think that almost any nationality can take on board the concept of a festival," says Ms Fairfax. "We may not get dressed as dragons or whatever, but it's the same idea of celebration. The Chinese are terribly popular because they always seem to join in the spirit, and insist on cooking a meal for you. Instead of cold turkey on Boxing Day you can eat Chinese." "It's the little things that are so lovely to be able to share," Mrs Harris says. "Like the logs on the fire. The Nigerians were so puzzled - what are the sticks for?" "

ack in their bedsitters Band college rooms, earnestly studying town planning or metallurgy, the students send tributes which bring lumps to the throat. "My sojoum at Telford", wrote Qiang Zhao from China, "was one of the pleasantest experiences in my life." "For once," wrote Micugo Wagatharia from Kenya, "I felt that I belong - not floating."

Oswald Chammawfa from Tanzania, studying librarianship, cherishes a photograph of himself outside the Skelmersdale library: by the standards of what he must go back to and build up. it must have seemed a treasure-house of culture. He never got inside his hostess had to explain that everything was, of course, shut for Christmas, But, for him, it did not seem to matter.

LIBBY PURVES Host, 18 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BJ

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#### laiwan to end state of war

i — Taiwan will formally state of war with China May removing an dant obstacle to closer tant obstatie to closer the Peking and further cratic reform on the President Lee Teng-hui in a sign of continuing are on the Nationalist

amen:, about 10,000 sition Supporters sed here to demand even r change. sident Lee said the malists would before rescind a 42-year-old gency declaration issued s the coult war and lette a process of constia! reform. We hope n the sharest period of that is to say, before May year, we will declare an

to the period of com-st rebelieon, he told the mal Assembly. e reforms would help to e sizes for the eventual fication of Taiwan with and China and meet Mr Lee said. ovisions under the decla-1. issued just before the enabst so emment lost ar and field to Taiwan in Sind Sweeping powers to residency and freeze in hundreds of ageing legers elected in China.

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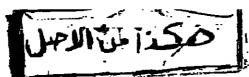
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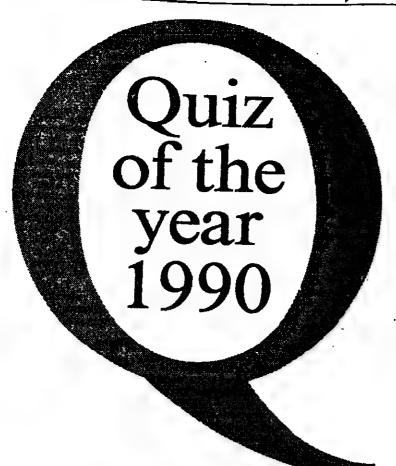
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fuses to election 





Can you remember who said what to whom, and where, in this memorable first year of the Nineties? Test yourself with this quiz, compiled by George Hill



9 Who said: "When I walk into the courts of justice, the scales swing round like a Cathorine wheel?"

(a) Arthur Scargiil? (b) Emest Saunders? (c) Frank Warren? 

**国际美国的** 

The Son-headed
Knocker of 10 Downing
Street fell off on which of
these symbolic dates in the
year?

the ERM?

(b) The day of Sir Geoffrey
Howe's resignation speech?

(c) The day Mrs Thatcher
announced her resignation?

(d) The day John Major entered number 10 as PM?

When Mrs Thatcher de-cided to resign, who mid: "Twiffight has torned to night"? (a) Teresa Gorman? (b) Paddy Ashdown? (c) Nell Kinnock? (d) Denis Thatcher?

Which MF, who did not support Mrs Thetoher in the landership contest, said earlier in the year: "May I say that my right honourable triend the prime minister is looking jolly rice today"?

(a) Michael Hesettine?
(b) Edward Heath?
(c) Edwina Currie?

4 Who said of Mrs 4 Thatcher's resign

"Now she's on the acraphesp like we will be soon"?

5 The government of Un-ter Pradesh proposes to release thouseds of ter-tles into local rivers: (a) To rout gangsters, est pizza and cry "Cowabunga"? (b) To sat remains of cre-mated bodies in the Garages?

mated bodies in the Ganges? (c) As a source of tortoise-shell for local craftsmen?

6 The Cyprus government thas protected beaches where rare turbus breed

by: (a) Asking the British army to stop exercising on the

(b) Banning a projected burist hotel there?
(c) Prohibiting the sale of turtle taramasalata?
(d) Imposing a "green levy" on Hero Turtle ticket sales?

Within weeks of the
British premiere of the Turlie movie, the NHS struck
off its list of items supplied on

Off Judge A is Mr Justice
Offenry, Judge B Mr Justice
Herman and Judge C Mr
Justice Michael Davies, then
was R Judge A, B or C who:
(a) Applopised to his car in
court for having described it at
an earlier hearing as "a
clapped-out old Volvo"?
(b) Spoke in court of "the

(b) Spoke in court of "the secret pleasure most of us get

clamped"? (c) Said, after hearing the term "Ms" explained: "I have

seeing a Rolls-Royce

(a) Pizza mix? (b) Turtle soup? (c) Surgical boots?

(a) Miner at a Welsh pit about to close? (b) City broker facing reces-ision shakeout?

(c) Dr David Owen?

(a) The day Britain joined

the ERM?

1 O Britain's first power chicken droppings is being built for £20m neer: (a) Wrexham? (b) Diss? (c) Pontelmac?

 Britain's second
 strongest earthquake
this commy had its epicentre neer; (a) Wrantem? (b) Disa? (c) Pontefract?

2 Which if any of the following events happened in Chatterman this year?

(a) Controversy over choice of a black man as the Tory parliamentary candidate?

(b) Kermein Baker, the Tory chairman, tells party conference: "Let this idle chatter cease ... there is no vacancy and there will be no vacancy ... to yaity and no vacancy and mers will be
no vacancy . . . loyalty and
unity have always been the
great strengths of our party"?
(c) The highest temperature
aver reliably recorded anywhere in Britain?
(d) The Cheltenham Gold
Cup won by a 100-1 outsider?

13 What became of the Prince of Water's broken

responsition fund? (b) Donated to the National Aussum of Polo? (c) Presented to the surgeon who finally set the bone?

A racing pigeon
Twhich won £5 in May
after besting 134 others in
a race from Humberside to
Norfolk belonged to:
(a) Paddy Ashdown?
(b) Paul Gascoigne?
(c) The Aga Khan?
(d) The Queen?

15 A species of ant pre15 viously unknown to science was discovered:
(a) Eating pizza under a
manhole in New York?
(b) On the desk of the president of the Morel Wide Europe dent of the World Wide Fund

(c) Inside the crater of Mount Erebus in Antarction?

16 The pigeon popula-tion of Peris has dou-bled in the past three years because (a) Contraceptive peliets formerly scattered in the streets have been burned because they contain an unauthorised drug?
(b) Unease about the peliets has deterred the city's tramps from trapping and eating the pigeons?
(c) Pigeon elimination equads have been withdrawn because of brutality protests from tourists?

17 The chart-topping pop due Milit Ventili was sacked by its manager pacease the two. always thought there were only three kinds of women: wives, whores and "mistresses"?

#### 

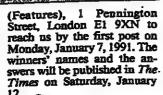
The senders of the first five correct entries drawn will each receive -a copy of *The Times* Concise Atlas of the World, worth £29.50.

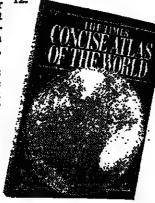
To enter the competition, write down the number (or letter) of the questions and put beside each one the appro-priate letter for the answer you consider correct, eg 1(a), 2(b),

A(c).

Note that a few questions may have more than one correct answer, for those, put every appropriate letter after the question number, e.g. 1(a)(b)(c). And some require you to match a letter in the question to each answer, e.g. 1(a)B, 1(b)C, 1(c)A.

Send your solutions with your name and address to Quiz of the Year, The Times

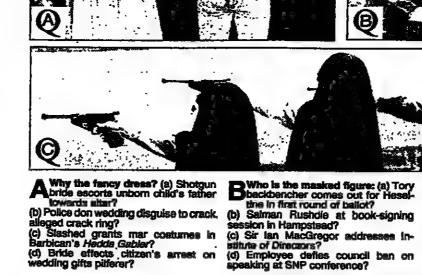




(a) Stripped naked on stage at a Grammy award ceremony (b) Campaigned for the Democrats in the US mid-term Mictions? (c) Wanted to sing in new records issued as theirs, pre-vious ones having been made only by other singers?

1 O Who endured three 1 O days of non-stop rock music, but then admitted deleat?

(a) The Prince of Wales, attempting to spend more time with his family?



(b) Manuel Norlegs, holed up in the Papal nunciature by the US army? (c) The Strangoways juil

1 9 of the six writers
year's Booker Prize, four
ised been on the shortlist before and another was a former judge. Which was (A) the
fourth-time candidate, and
(B) the only new face?
(a) Beryl Balnbridge?
(b) A.S. Byett? (b) A.S. Byatt? (c) Penelope Fitzgarek!?

(d) John McGahem? (e) Brian Moore? (f) Mordscal Richler?

THE GREAT AND 20 if parliamentation A
20 is Nicholas Rickey, II to
Timothy Eggar, C is Bar-treas Warnock, D is John
Gummer, E is Ron Brown,
and F is Patrick Nicholas then was it A.B.C.D.E or F (a) Pressed his four-yearold daughter to eat a burger, to show that he was not atraid of mad cow disasse?

(b) Was said by a judge to have been "stupid, idiotic and provocative" in putling a six-year-old into his house to remonstrate with her for taking flowers from his garden?

(c) Commended test-tube baby research on the grounds that hereditary peers would find it useful to assertain the sex of a potential heir?

sex of a potential heir? (d) Launched a campaign against alcohol abuse, then

was caught drink-driving? (e) Said that a common European currency was "a German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe"?

**Q** 

re them alone?

(f) Was charged with crim-inal damage to the flat of his former mistress, and with stealing her knickers? 2 1 Which hitherto know-erate amoker gave up the habit? (a) Nicholas Ridley? (b) Deng Xiaoping? (c) Lach Walesa?

Clock and dagger or just a bad habit? (e) Papal security squad at target practice in Vatican? (b) Runaway nuns plead with press to What is the man on the left doing?

(a) Dover tidiness patrol trims nails for unkempt teenagers?

(b) Organ transplant squad asks potential documents. tial donor to give a hand? (c) Animal rights chain protest folled by (c) Art thieves cover getaway in snatch of convent's £1m Raphael?
(d) Iranian shooting team in practice at Asian Games in Beijing?

tail donor to give a namo?
(c) Animal rights chain protest folled by police?
(d) Agitprop theatre's *Struwwelpeter* gives old tale political edge?

22 Who died this year
22 leaving four sons, one
daugmen, 12 Faborie cons
and 75,000 toy soldiers?
(a) Malcolm Forbes?
(b) Armand Hammer?
(c) Leonard Bernstein?

23 Who died this year
23 leaving a castle, a Palladian mansion, a herd of
1,000 white tallow deer, and
20,000 toy solders?
(a) Lord Cholmondeley?
(b) Lord Hamilton of
Dalzell? (c) Lord Daresbury?



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# Births, deaths and exit, face down

his has been a breath-taking year for journalists. We have seen two new launches - and two deaths. We have seen editors come and go. We have read the ers believe has achieved a Calcutt report on privacy, and noticeable change for the betseen the birth of the Press ter, with markedly improved Complaints Commission, coverage of the cultural scene. And we have been covering a The hurried launch of a new succession of stupendous Saturday Review stabilised news stories.

The complexity of many topics has helped the serious papers much more than the the Sunday Telegraph has tabloids, but that was no help to the luckless Sunday Corres Hastings is now editor-inpondent. It began with the best chief of both newspapers. The of intentions. Unfortunately, previously independent good intentions frequently produce indifferent newspapers (remember News on fold; it suffered a further Sunday"). There was from the setback when a senior memfirst a lack of charisma about the paper. The magazine was ling an office confidence. excellent and some of the news coverage - on scarce resources - quite impressive. However, promotion was patchy and the switch to tabloid format came too late. The Independent on Sunday, launched in January, is a far stronger proposition and should prosper when the advertising recession is over.

The Listener died too.

Weekly magazines of opinion need rich sugar daddies to pay the bills, and the BBC is too poor and too nervous to play that role any longer. But a curculation of less than 17,000 suggests that the magazine had totally lost its way.

The other launch was, of course. Robert Maxwell's the European. First published in May, its July circulation was certified at 240,000. It looks both serious and elegant indeed, it has won a European prize for colour printing - but i exudes such a bland and timeless quality that so far it gives only a pale reflection of the amazing Nineues. Ian Watson, the editor, admits that it has been a difficult year, but claims circulation has now rises to around 300,000, mainly in Europe. With a total staff of 180 and ample supplies of copies visible everywhere, it must cost a fortune to produce. How much, no one is saying.

Charles Wilson vacated the chair at The Times and eventually took up the role of managing director and editorin-chief of the Sporting Life. He was succeeded by Simon Jenkins, whom most observ-

#### THE PRESS

#### Charles Wintour

ground on the Daily Mail, but the gap is still more than 100,000. The Daily Mirror is closer to the Sun (at last with on-the-run colour facilities of its own), but the gap is still the circulation. Meanwhile, more than 750,000. Among the qualities the performance the previously rather conof the Independent is striking. voluted editorial structure at Its coverage of the battle for the Tory leadership was been straightened out Max particularly confident and free-wheeling, and sales increased by 5,000 in November over October. None the less, Worsthornian college has thus the Guardian did even better, been brought fully into the increasing its sale by more than 15,000 in November. ber was dismissed for publish-Perhaps the anti-Thatcher mood of the country helped them both, but it did nothing In the tabloid field, Roy for the Observer, down more

Greenslade has had nearly a full year at the Daily Mirror, with his efforts to boost sales hampered by the recent price increase, while his prede-cessor, Richard Stott, is batthing with the problems of the People - pegging the price there has made no difference so far. The prospect of an out, dangled before him by his ever-ingenious publisher, Mr Maxwell, must spur his efforts to get it right.

n a year bursting with such amazing stories, newspapers should have flourished as never before. Yet, looking at the most recent rolling averages (for the period June to November), not one Sunday newspaper, popular or quality, is showing an increase on last year. The Sunday tabloids have lost more than 500,000 on the equivalent six months.

Even the prosperous-looking column-ridden Mail on Sunday shows a marginal decline. The established quality Sundays lost 250,000, but that was more than counteron Sunday (launched in January) with a sale over that period of 344,000. Most of the popular dailies are also showing losses, but to a lesser degree. The quality mornings are fairly stable. Of course, within the broad

figures there are wide variations. The Daily Express under the newly knighted Nick Lloyd made up some

advertising recession hit them all. "So it's been a good year for advertisers," says the optimist Alec Kenny of Kenny Lockett Booth. The development of on-the-run colour has led to more attractive papers." He reckons that next year will be even tougher for newspapers; he sees television listings, soon available to all, as the joker in the pack.

So for the new year forecast: market share of advertising will be all-important; in such conditions the battle will go to the strong. Hard times all round will delay the People's float and restrict new publishing projects to the launch pad. The Independent, now backed by continental money, may try a burst of promotion. Mr Maxwell will spring a surprise (he cannot live without them). The Press Complaints Commission will be a success, this year at least. The Gulf war, should it come in all its than 100,000 on the June to horror, will see a surge in tablord sales. And by the end of 1991, we shall all have read too much about one Europe

told us, turning Margaret Thatcher's portrait face down, "nothing lasts forever". Within 48 hours, the Tory leadership ballot saw the incumbent badly bruised; a day and a night later she threw in the towel BBC1's rendering of Michael Dobbs's House of Cards, in a script by Andrew Davies, demonstrated a felic-

ity of timing for which channel controllers cheerfully kill. Fact soon overwhelmed fiction. Mrs Thatcher, determined not to be outdone, treated the viewing public to a pyrotechnic parliamentary display. "I'm enjoying this," she bellowed. Her big finale reminded us of one of the few solid broadcasting achievements of the Thatcher years, the entry of the cameras into the Commons. Those same cameras had

earlier lingered on Sir Geoffrey Howe, as he applied the dagger with a relish last displayed by Nigel Birch in 1963. Birch drew on Browning's The Lost Leader: "Never glad con- place to the languorous

#### **BROADCAST**

#### Brian Wenham

fident morning again." Sir Geoffrey's style was likelier, but the pained look on the face of Jonathan Aitken behind him told all. That look and the speech are forever in the mchive. Later that night, Sir Alastair

Burnet proved he retained an edge first displayed 27 years earlier in the last days of Harold Macmillan. Over on the BBC, the verbal burblings of the party chairman were being taken at face value: Sir Alastair went straight for the jugular. "Mr Baker, a divided party, regular resignations, byelection defeats. Isn't the game up?" And then, "but Mr Baker, he's gone, he's left you, it's over". For a moment Kenneth Baker's customary relish for the job in hand

In BBC2's Portrait of a Marriage, politics took second

fumblings of Vita and Violet. not yet classless society. Well-crafted though it was. Portrait meandered; Jeanette Winterson's sinewy reworking of her own novel. Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit, emerged as clear winner overall. By December, a little light lesbianism bad fed its way into Capital City, so swiftly do yesterday's taboos become to-

day's new fashion. These mild varieties of buin Sir David Attenborough's Trials of Life, a startling follow-on from Life on Earth and The Living Planet. Some critics sniffed. feeling jaded, but on any long view Sir David's triptych must stand as the most singular television achievement of this entury's last quarter.

ITV locked into further exploration of the dramatised documentary. Shoot to Kill, Who Bombed Birmingham? and Why Lockerbie? revived argument about what is and what is not proper, "Straight" documentary was not outshone, with much yet to reveal from behind what was once the iron curtain. Peter Pagnamenta's Nippon for BBC2 scrutinised the supposedly inscrutable with calm efficiency, allowing individual witness to speak for itself, and Peter Taylor proved in The Maze: Enemies Within that even the absurdity of actors mouthing the words of terrorists can be made not to obtrude and obstruct too much,

On the sports screen, cricket went from triumph to disaster, but World Cup football most turned the nation's head. Gazza blubbed his way into the sort of instant celebrity we British all too easily equate with fame. "Our Man Luciano" did well out of the cup. "Nessun Dorma" soared to the top of the charts, so much so that Channel 4's Drop the Dead Donkey had a rwear-box for anyone caught humming a phrase. Drop the Dead Donkey was the sharpest of the new comedies, and earned an instant repeat. Ben Elton and Dave Allen were the sharpest individual comedians, with Mr Allen in particularly fine and funny four-letter

form. Elsewhere, Patricia Routledge gave what she would call her all as Hyacynth Bucket in BBC1's Keeping Up Appearances, mocking the finer absurdities of Britain's

For the chattering classes, Twin Peaks went nowhere" most engagingly. But Crzysz-tof Kieslowski's Ten Commandments had much moreto it, and came close to those European heights earlier scaled by Edgar Reisz's Heimat. in our own backyard, Coronation Street was 30, and together with EastEnders and The Bill kept the Australian man behaviour were dwarfed soap invasion back in some by what other animals got up sort of second place. Sleuthing was much in vogue, with the quintet of Morse, Poirot, Wexford, Dalgliesh and Taggart reflecting the ITV regional strength of which we hear so much.

> he incumbents of that system are now to be put to the auctioncum-quality test as they seek renewal from the fledgeling Independent Television Commission. The ITC wrestles, too, with the wreckage of BSB, whose shareholders concluded in November that Sky should fall in on them, thus halving satellite choice overnight. And the BBC waits to hear of subinflation licence increases soon to come. The recession takes its toll, and broadcasting is not exempt.

But the refreshed political. scene offers opportunity for . some. Mike Yarwood is an early beneficiary of John Major's emergence at 10 Downing Street. Spitting Imversion of the new leader, to the displeasure of those Eighties Tory image-makers who quietly admit they may have a Nineties problem on their hands. And hovering both in the wings and on an inside track stands the every-ready Michael Dobbs, still on a post-House of Cards high. Here is potential for high mischief. At a pre-Christmas do, Mr Dobbs was reminded that House of Cards deals with the dispatch not of Mrs Thatcher, but of the successor. Are parallels intended, or in prospect? Offering his best Central Office Tebbit-trained grin, Mr Dobbs catch-phrased back: "You might think that. I could not possibly comment."

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Fact and fiction in Downing Street: Margaret Thatcher bowed out while Ian Richardson schemed in House of Cards

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minutes devoted to celebrating the career of Bugs Bunny. On Channel 4, by contrast, they showed that they know exactly what fanatical religious devotion is all about I refer, of course, to the Coronation Street Birthday Lecture, delivered by the Rt Hon Roy Hattersley. How fitting to commemorate an ancient soap with a load of old flannel.

But then, this was a day of cultural treats. Courtesy of BBC 2, the high-minded could take their pre-lunch sherry to the sight of Roger Norrington flailing through the Eroica Symphony, and dip into their Christmas puds as the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra glided through Liszt's Faust Symphony. Actually, to spend the whole of Liszt's Faust Symphony eating Christmas pud would be to make a devil's pact of a peculiarly regrettable sort.

Then they could doze gently through Henry Moore and Landscape and progress to deep slum-ber during Philip Glass's soundtrack to a pretentious piece of urban stream-of-consciousness called Powaggatsi. Our insatiable culture-vultures would be saved from fast-encroaching rigor mortis by a bracing burst of Simon Rattle conducting Janáček (the stunning Royal Opera production of The Cunning Little Vixen), and then switch over to Channel 4 for Carmen on Ice: possibly the least steamy interpretation that the Bizet classic has ever received.

Oh, and I nearly forgot to mention Nigel Kennedy, E.T. and The Queen - in separate programmes, of course, which was a pity. A conversation among them would make a remarkable study in the variances of spoken English.

Apart from that small matter of relegating God to three per cent of the air time, the BBC made just one big scheduling blunder. That was by not starting broadcasts until 7am. All parents of small children know that this is at least two hours too late. Non-stop cartoons from Sam are needed, preferably interspersed with hidden, subliminal messages along the lines of: "Your parents are extremely tired...let them sleep...let them sleep." Still, I see that today we have a

real feast of culture on BBC 2 again: Norrington conducting more Beethoven symphonies, Rattle conducting more opera, Leonard Bernstein lectures. Marvelious stuff...and thoroughly worthy . . . well worth the licence

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RICHARD MORRISON

# المحتارة الأصل الأصل Disney's flawed gem sparkles anew

Geoff Brown on Fantasia,

The Mahabharata and

Almost an Angel, plus the best and worst of 1990

e are led into the world of Disney's Fantasia (U, Can-non Shaftesbury Avenue) by Deems Taylor, composer and critic, a horn-rimmed gent and the Richard Baker of his day. He tells us to expect "designs and pictures and stories" inspired by classical music; the head must be cleared, he says in avuncular tones, for the kind of images that "might pass through your mind as you're listening". Yet what kind of mind accompanies Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and company with frolicsome centaurs, dancing hippopo-tami, darting Cupids with heart-shaped

bottoms, or fish with come-hither eyes? 1990 marks this extraordinary film's fiftieth anniversary. Each reissue brings new audiences, new generations. Twenty years ago, the psychedelic crowd pounced on the "mind-blowing" colours and extravagant fantasy; the catchment area now is probably tots enslaved by Mutant Turtles. Copies have been struck from the original nitrate negative: the image looks bright and crisp.

Technology's weapons have also been trained on the music-making of Leopold Stokowski, who appears between sequences as a God-like magician, alone on a podium, conducting nothing but a sunset glow. Yet the sound of the Philadelphia Orchestra remains distorted in balance, disturbed by ungainly stereophonic separation. By issuing his film in "Fantasound" - an experimental system that needed special equipment - Disney lumbered Fantasia with an albatross still clinging round its neck.

The film swings back and forth between good and bad, the sublime and the ridiculous: that, in part, is its fascination. Disney's artists achieve imaginative won-ders with Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain, dipping at the climax into an Expressionist palette of vicious blues, yellows, reds and blacks. They create delicious humour from the prancing menagerie of the Dance of the Hours and Mickey Mouse's star turn in The Sorcerer's Apprentice. Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony, however, conjures up vulgar whimsy, while Schubert's "Ave Maria" concludes with the dull thud of piety. .

"Gee, this'll make Beethoven," Disney is supposed to have said. Fantasia did not even make Disney. But this curate's egg has held its ground over 50 years, losing none of its power to leave audiences of any age delighted, amazed, and aghast. Those searching for a more intellectual

post-Christmas treat can always go to Peter Brook's The Mahabharata (U, Barbican Cinema, Gate Notting Hill). This cinema version of his renowned stage epic, culled from Indian mythology, lasts a mighty three hours, though as the television version lasts seven, the play nine, and the Sanskrit source takes up 18 volumes, we have actually got off lightly.

After an opening flourish of bewildering sights - a king's wife giving birth, for instance, to a large black ball - the film

settles down to a graspable narrative about

rival branches of a ruling family: the five

sons of Pandu, and the hundred sons of the

Vietnam, Poland and Senegal. Over the years, Brook has periodically

of the climactic battle; Brook, attuned to

Warren Beatty's version of Dick Tracy

Star turn to the masic of Dekas: Mickey Mosee appears as the Sorcerer's Apprentice in Walt Disney's 1940 feature, Fantasia, which has been reissued yet again

blind king Dhritharashtra, Pandu's sons, guided by Krishna, return from exile to fight for their territory, discovering in the process that war negates all concept of right and wrong. The cast is drawn from Brook's loyal troupe at his International Centre of Theatre Research. The language is English, the inflection often French; the actors, belitting a story of universal significance, come from as far afield as

attempted the dangerous liaison between theatre and cinema. Theatre always gets the upper hand: especially here, where characters unload their philosophical thoughts among rocks with the weight of papier máché. In live performances, Brook regularly wrests magic from minimal settings; here, the camera's close scrutiny and the drab colour makes it far burder for audiences to fall under the spell. Talk is everything: wise words, delivered with passion and clarity, but talk all the same. Imagine what Knrosawa would have made the characters' inner anguish, tosses away the spectacle in a few muddy flurries.

The Mahabharata offers food for the

mind, if not the eyes. Paul Hogan's new American film, Almost an Angel (PG, Empire), offers neither; nor does it capita-lise satisfactorily on the proven appeal of

the Crocodile Dundee star. Hogan (working from his own script) plays a seasoned thief who brushes with death and returns to life, so he thinks, as a probationary angel. Determined to do good, he holds up a fast-food outlet to give the needy 200 tune rolls. Moving to fresh fields, he befriends an embittered youth with a spinal tumour, romances his sister, and restores life to her recreation centre.

ogan's cheerful irreverence prompts a few early chuckles, but the combination of feeble jokes and a dawdling pace swiftly brings the film to its knees. The director is John Cornell, Hogan's partner from his Australian days; while Linda Kozlowski, adorument of both Dundee films, gets stuck with the cliché of the earnest girl who begins with glasses and swept-back hair but unlocks her beauty in time for the happy ending.

Supernatural themes staged a remarkable Hollywood comeback this year, wooing audiences with comforting notions of life beyond the tumult of a century and civilisation fast running out of time. The emerging fashion did nothing to help Steven Spicilberg's Always at the box-office, though the meretricious Ghost took off during the summer, leaving much-byped blockbusters punting for breath.

DONALD COOPER | RADIO

was rammed hard down our throats. For a film derived from the screaming panels of a comic-strip, however, it seemed a remarkably frigid exercise. David Lynch's Wild at Heart, another target for ballyboo, went to the other extreme, of feckless indulgence. Neither earns a place on my Best Films of the Year list.

So what films do? I would be loath to nominate the traditional ten, though bouquets have been earned by a large handful, Martin Scorsese's GoodFellas, flawed though it was, restored dynamic thrust to American narrative film-making; Jane Campion's Sweetle and An Angel at my Table showed an enormous new talent wiclding a fresh pair of eyes. The restored print of Jean Vigo's 1934 classic, L'Atalante, recalled cinema's potency as a vehicle for poetic fantasy; while Alan Rudolph's undervalued Love at Large took the detective genre for an enjoyably crazy walk.

-British cinema kept a low profile, though there were scattered achievements. Philip Saville and Michael Eaton's blacklist tale, Fellow Traveller, tackled intelligent subject-matter with splomb; The Krays forged a fierce psychological drama from the East End brothers lives and crimes. In the shoestring budget division, the Amber collective's in Fading Light, set

against northern England's declining fishing industry, brought a raw air of reality to the wilting semi-documentary form.

Whit Stillman's Metropolitan, a sleek comedy of manners, was the year's most surprising debut; Patrice Leconte's intense tale of sexual obsession, Monsieur Hire, unearthed a valuable French talent new to Britain (though this was his ninth feature). The year's most intense and challenging cinema appeared on the small screen, not the large. Krzysztof Kieslowski's cycle The Ten Commandments, transmitted by the BBC, rigorously explored the quagmire of modern morality, and showcased the virtues of strict cinematic control in a flatulent age.
As for brickbats, two must be hurled.

with particular force: one at Joel Schumacher's Flatliners, for being oppressively over-designed, shallow and ghoulish; another at Bird on a Wire, for insulting the audience's intelligence.

Finally, my prizes for the year's most absurd titles. Stuff Stephanie in the Incinerator and Chopper Chicks in Zombietown — petither yet released in Britain -- earn high marks for cheek. However, an American television feature. Where Pigeons Go to Die, narrowly wins, because of its plangent intimations of boredom ahead. Who cares where pigeons

THEATRE: PICK OF 1990

### Measures of love

Benedict Nightingale on why Brian Friel's

Dancing at Lughnasa is his play of the year

his year, 1990, was the year when the Royal Shakespeare Company exiled itself to Stratford, David Mellor ended his stint in the cultural counting house by securing unexpectedly large sums for the nation's troubled theatres, and the Arts Council proceeded to share out the loot somewhat less than evenhandedly. It was the year when everybody who was not saving the Young Vic, performing in a Sondheim musical, celebrating Arthur Miller's 75th birthday, or directing King Lear, seemed to be writing plays about the Eastern bloc, not always very good ones.

But it was also a year which brought to the National a new play that will surely be revered and revived when such transitory happenings have been relegated to the theatrical annals. Amid all the financial babble and cultural burble, Brian Friel's Dancing at Lughnasa unpretentiously embodied more lasting virtues: com-

plexity, depth, magic, spirit, soul.
On one level, Dancing at
Lughnasa is another Irish memory-play, like Hugh Leonard's Da
or Friel's own Philadelphia, Here I Come. It cannot be a coincidence that the narrator, like the author, was aged seven in 1936, the year he spends the evening revisiting; nor can it be accidental that, again like his author, he was brought up near the western border of Ulster and Eire. What matters, though, is that Friel writes as though he has lived out his play, if not literally then imaginatively. Nowadays it is fashionable to dismiss this as nostalgia. On this occasion, it would be better described as a quiet intensity of love and regret.

The main characters are the five Mundy sisters, second cousins to Chekhov's three Prozorovs, and, rather like them, precariously clinging to the remnants of their gentility in the rural outback. Chris is the narrator's unmarried mother, still in love with his restless, feckless father. Rose, mentally subnormal, launches into an affair with a local bad boy. and then loses her job, as does Agnes. Maggie, unemployed from the start, forlornly plays the family joker. "Hair cracks are appearing everywhere," confides Kate, the eldest and most responsible sister. "Control is slipping away. The whole thing is so fragile it can't be held together much longer."

Disintegration, collapse and exile are familiar Irish themes, but, as Friel handles them, they are simultaneously funny and painful wholly particular and hauntingly resonant, like distant music echoing across a valley. Dancing at Lughnasa is not, repeat not, just an elegiac study of social change. It is about human hope, disappointment and resilience. There is more than a hint of Beckett in Friel's play, mellower though it is than anything the older Irishman could bring himself to write.

But it is something else that finally gives the evening its special quality, something embodied in the title. Lughnasa is a Celtic leftover, a druidic barvest festival which annually sets the local people dancing round fires and sometimes doing barely mentionable things in their glow.

Little wonder, perhaps, that the only male Mundy, himself a priest, has returned from an African leper colony converted or reconverted to paganism. The play is never more hilarious than when he blandly recommends polygamy or blood sacrifice to his stunned sisters. It is also never more to the

What Friel is suggesting is that old, heathen forces are alive if suppressed in God-fearing Bally-beg, and may at any time burst out, like steam through plating less sturdy than it looks. The form these take can be funny, joyous, ugly, liberating, or all those things

How many contemporary playwrights are capable of bringing such rich ambiguity to matters so

elemental? On the evidence of 1990, few if any. There was subtlety and a new warmth in Simon Gray's latest portrait of the scribbling classes in emotional disarray, Hidden Laughter. In her Mad Forest, the best of those plays about the upheavals in Eastern Europe, Caryl Churchill showed that politics and dramatic complexity can co-exist. But there was evidence of manez



Alec McCowen, Catherine Byrne (front) and Anita Reeves in Dancing at Lughness, as seen at the Royal National Theatre

insularity and clockwork thinking in too many of the new socially significant plays.

As far as drama is concerned, the disappearance of Mrs Thatcher should prove a great boon. Playwrights may at last start thinking through their political agenda instead of balefully reacting to a convenient hate-figure. But it will take more than a change of leader to dent the sentimental marxism of Edward Bond, once a major dramatist but now, as his anti-war Jackets II indicated, lost to paranoia and didactic cari-

And another thing. While I am using Lughnasa to belabour just about everything else in 1990, let me not forget Patrick Mason's beautifully judged production of the play, a blend of requiem and tarantella without one jarring note. What a contrast with the visual ado of A Clockwork Orange or of the West End revival of Vaclav Havel's Temptation, and refreshing, after the excesses of John Malkovich in Burn This, the year's most overpraised perfor-

There have always been actors who have shown off and upstaged others. In recent years there have also been plenty of directors prepared to impose their own intellectual prejudices on innocent texts. But the passing of the 19th century should surely have marked the end of the sort of hamfistedly extravagant production designed, not to embody a play, but to distract the audience from its actual or supposed shortcomings. That inevitably brings me back to Moscow Gold, the year's greatest disappointment.

What a pity that the RSC, which had an exceptionally strong season at Stratford, should have elected to send so feeble a piece to Russia.
The Soviet people have sufferings enough this winter without being subjected to Howard Brenton and Tariq Ali's schoolroom crush on President Gorbachev.

The piece uniquely combined intellectual boorishness with meretricious show. It might have come from a different galaxy to that which produced the understated sensitivity of Dancing at Lughnasa.

Baiting the hand that feeds him

Somewhere in transit between New York, New York, and York, Yorkshire, a malignant bug has mugged Victor Lewis-Smith's inner tubes. A racking cough is bad news for a broadcaster who records the voices and music and sound effects for his own programmes in his own front room, "If we recorded a show now success, according to all the characters would have flu." So the advertised Christmas Special tonight on Radio 1 will be replaced by the compilation of pacey, risky, puerile and sharp-edged programmes that won Lewis-Smith and his co-writer

Paul Sparks this year's Radio Comedy Award. - At the ceremony he made a speech which mysteriously disappeared before transmission, Beneath improbable matted dreadlocks his pudgy features assume a mildly puzzled ex-pression. "I just said that TV people go to all the hip joints while radio people have to have plastic

The "studio" contains a wordprocessor, a synthesizer and electric piano, a fat reel-to-reel Revox tapedeck and, crucially, a DAT double tapedeck that enables hissfree multi-tracking for the manic, Sellers-inspired crowd scenes. A tenor saxophone stands mute before a music stand bearing a half-written composition. Lewis-Smith's subject at the University of York. Sparks has a PhD in

Their surdonic double act tends to derail Pythonesquely. When Lewis-Smith tells me that Harry Enfield used to live across the square, Sparks butts in with: "Albert Camus, he was another one. What a bastard, always coming round for milk."

The room has not a scrap of sound insulation; in summer birdsong intrudes. "If the BBC's head of engineering walked in here he would get the place con-demned. But it is much firster here than if we were working in Broadcasting House. And it is easier to have control when you're away from the Light Enter-tainment clique."

As a sometime producer for Radio 4 ("You can see the suffering in my eyes") Lewis-Smith has a technical mastery of the medium which enables true creativity.

Next month he and Sparks and associates are bidding for the local commercial radio franchise. "The The iconoclastic

programme maker Victor Lewis-Smith richly deserves his

**Martin Cropper** idea of the formal studio will go,

we will use clip-mikes in an ordinary room. We are geared for television as well," he remarks, pointing to a 1959 ex-BBC TV camera in the corner, "if we can convert the country to 405 lines. We have formed a company called Associated Rediffusion Television Productions. It's legal."

But the most celebrated item of hardware present is the telephone from which Lewis-Smith makes surrealistic calls to a variety of hapless victims. Though meticulously mapped out in advance, these pranks can easily boo-merang. A conversation with Mo-Donald's in Moscow ("a take-away order for my friends Burgess and Maclean") foundered when he overstepped the mark with a comparison between a Big Mac and Sputnik 2: you can be certain the sputnik will have a dog in it. A high-handed call to a public school headmaster came unstuck when Lewis-Smith pressed the subject of corporal punishment in too much

He is not above biting the corporation that feeds him. Tonight's broadcast features a crunchingly funny and rather appalling phone call to the producer of *That's Life*, in which the

prankster announces himself as a paraplegic who can play "The Sailor's Hompipe" in four seconds flat while his pet dog runs in and out of the spokes of his wheelchair. The call climaxes with Lewis-Smith pretending to fall over and moaning for belp, to the consternation of the listening BBC

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The blithe impudence of these projects would be nothing without their luminous bad taste: others try, he delivers. Lewis-Smith cannot quite understand (a) how he manages to get away with it and (b) why there are not more complaints from the great listen-ing public. "There really cannot be any ghetto areas. If you are going to write and broadcast comedy you cannot be touchy about anything, least of all yourself. We have done stuff that could easily be interpreted as right-wing, but

better that than no-go areas. In the steps of Joe Orton and Henry Root, he occasionally fires off ludicrous complaining letters. Three members of North Yorkshire CID once turned up during a dinner party looking for "a Mr Rees-Bunce" who had shut down a soup factory's production line while the company searched the French Onion vats for condoms. All the same, he dislikes Jeremy Beadle - "There is no edge there" - and disdains all those who fix their accents in whichever direction. "I despise Nigel Ken-nedy, he rings untrue." His magnificently cruel demolition of the populist fiddler purports to be in aid of The Patronising Musicians' Benevolent Fund. Enjoy. • The Best of Victor Lewis-Smith is broadcast on Radio I tonight at 10.30pm.



**NEW RELEASES** 

ALMOST AN ANGEL (PG): Croccille Dunche star Paul Hogen as a professional third who believes he has returned from the dead to do good deeds. Feeble excursion into supernetural whemey; director John Carnell, with Linds Koutoweld.
Carnell, with Linds Koutoweld.
Carnell, and (171-370 2836) Oxford Street (171-635 9772)
Fulham Road (171-370 2836) Oxford Street (171-636 9310). donel third

FANTASIA (U): Dianey's famous PANT ASIA (U): Disney's famous visualisable of opportunities of popular cancert classics ricocheta between the charming, the clever, and the dissistrously cute. With Mickey Moute as the Sorcert's Apprentice; music played by Leopold Sorkowski and the Phillidelphia Christia.

Cambion Parkway (071-257 7034) Carmon Shafesbury Avenus (071-356 Stiff) Screen on the Green (071-256 Stiff) Screen on the Green (071-256 Stiff)

THE MAHABHARIATA (U): Three-hour version of Pater Brook's stage epic which delives into indian legends elect the history of the world. Visuelly drab, though the material gradually compele attention. Bertikean (071-666 6801).

CURRENT AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (16): John Campion's excellent film about the New Zestand winer Jacob France. Renoir (071-897 8402),

 BUJE STEEL (10t Tough, blood-ignified police trailer with a fermical stant from director Katinyn Bigelow.

Carango Catinya Street (1711-128 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-502-6644/5) Mazzerian (071-930-6111)

COME SEE THE PARADISE (15): Alien Perker's romentic drame, about the American resument of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor; handsomely mounted. Odeon Haymerket (071-839 7697).

THE COMPORT OF STRANGERS (15): Puper Everet and Nazaria Procardson moothing around Venice, falling prey to the varped Christopher Wassen. Laterious paychological drams. Curson Mayfair (071-439 3737).

 PLATLINETS (15): Kinter Submetend, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as recital students probing the boundaries between death probing the boundaries between death entire the Derector, Just Schursscher, Caregoris: Chiefes (V71-892 5090) Tottentam Court Road (V71-898 9146) Odeons: Kersington (V71-892 8644) Megcantine (V71-890 6111) Swiese Cottage (V426 914 088) Whitsleys (V71-792 8800)0004). ♦ THE FRESHMAN (PG): Quirky, unavan-

CI GCOKENDS: Clearpatintingly emply late of two freieny bidses: Madmel Narcem and Dispatin Landers by in find arms content. Apollo, Shattesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 2683) Underground: Piccaday, Mon-Fri, Sprt, Sat, 8,38 pm, mail Sat, Sprt, Rambing time:

II THE BOYS NEXT DOOR: Tom can in a muta make LARAKE Tom Griffin's patronising view of the mentally li-adjusted. Fine acting, with Sleve Guttenberg. Transfer from Hampstead. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (071-85' 1045). Underground: Piccadilly Me Thus, Spm, Fri, Set, 8:30pm, mate Fn, Set, 5:30pm. Ruraling time: 2tm 10mins. Ends Stantiev.

III DANCING AT LUGINASA: Brien Friel's hauntingly beautiful memory play the brings Donegal Catholic prudery up against pages occasely.

National (Lystetton), South Bank, SE1
(17)-929 2522, Underground/BR: Visionios.

Toright, temorrow, 7.30pm, mat temorrow,
2.15pm, Running time; 2hrs 30mms.

El GASLIGHT: Annie Cestiedine's experitly atmospheric production of Patrick Hamilton's thriller. Performences excellent, Hamilton's maler, Performancies excesses the plot orpoing. Greenwich, Croom's Hill, SE10 (081-555 7755) British Rais Groonwich, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed-Fri, 3.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm. (Closed Jen 1)

CASPRINGS John Gordon Sinctel rand
Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comady.
Rather over the top but lots of laughs.
Theatre Royal, Haymenter, SM1 (071-930
1800), Undergreend: Pecasilly, Mon-Thurs,
3pm, Fri, Sat, 8:30pm, met Sat, Spm.
Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Ends February 16,
(Closed Jan 1)

THOOSEN LAUGHTER: Hannah Gordon and Paker Barkworth in Stankin Gray's thoughtprovolong play.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987).
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987).
Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm,
Bat, 8.30pm, mass Wed, John, Ser, Spm.
Playning time: 21ms 15mins. (Open Jen 1)

III INTO THE WOODS: Sondhern's withy mix of furtheless; grantines than Grantin in the first half, turns slostly thereafter.
Proceeds, Change Cross Road, WC2 (1771-240 9861). Underground: Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat, 7-30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2-30pm. Running lines 2ms 50mins. (Open Jan

U TWE MYSTERY OF IRMA VER: Spool Gothic melodrame, ranging between the farcically furnry and the feebly frantic. Ambassedors, West Street, WC2 (071-856 6111), Underground: Laicester Square. Mon-Set, Spril, mets Thurs, 3pm, Set, 4pm, Rusning time: Zhre. Ende Jenuary 5. (Open Jan 1)

CANDENELLA: Lendon City Baset Inc. weekly choises an elementary Consonai chace for its London season. The production, choreographed by William Morgan, is stronger on cornedy then on romance and is a fun right out. Levish designs by Joha

Engel. Sediar's Wells, Rossbery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), 230pm, 7.30pm. THE NUTCRACKER: TIME OF THE performences today of Peter Wright's version for the Royal Ballet. The matinée features company debuts by Carcey Bussell and Stuert Cassidy as the Sugar Plum Farry and the Prince, and in the later performance, Viviania Durante is partnered by Bruce Sanson Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

WORD-WATCHING

(a) An exotic alcoholic cordial prepared by

macerating the kernels of peaches, apricots, etc. in spirit, from the Latin persicum a peach: "Powders and confects, cordials and persico."

(a) An important officer of th early Christian

church charged with the burial of the dead, and other sepulchral matters, from the Latin fodere, fossi, fossum to dig: "I saw it all answered the old fossor."

(b) The alleged sport of jumping from a high

b) the angest sport of jumping from a right place with a special parachute, a portmanteau word based on the French word pente a slope: "Up, up and away. John Barlow, of Coniston, a leading exponent, takes off in the Lake District, where parapenting is on the

Answers from page 18 PERSICO

PARAPENTING

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

Note: Please check with cinemas for changes in opening times during the Christmas week

speed of Time Goydaman, with Marion Emencio as ispoci or fine Colombia, who york filter is when york filter student (Matthew Brodunick) as a delivery-boy. Writes-director, Andrew Bergman. Odeones: Kensington (971-602-6644/5) Mezzanine (971-630-6111).

♦ GOODFELLAS (18): Martin Scoraese's ⊕ GUOLINELLAS (16): Mestra Schröder
gangster spic following a New York hoodlum's
ries and fail. With Robort De Nino.
Camnon Fullmen Road (07.1-570 2539)
Curzon West End (07.1-539 4905) Screen on
Eatlan Samet (07.1-535 2772) Whiteleys

HEDRY AND JUNE (10); Areia Ne's passionate affair with Henry Miler in bohamiss: Paris recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip (sustmen. Cennon Fullham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-487 9999) Notifing Hill Coronat (071-727 6705) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

♦ HOME ALONE (PG): Plucky lod left alone at Christmas wards off burnbling burglars. Broad, machine-boiled American family fun from writer-producer John Hughes. A

org US mt. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Camons: Cheleaa (071-352 5096) Haym (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 9844/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Mezzanine (071-830 6111) Warner (071-439 0791) Withhamps (071-792 2303,0229)

 THE HOT SPOT (18): Reging sexual fires and dupticity in a lazy Texas town, deliciously evoked by director Dennis Hopper. Don Johnson as the drifter who unearths a homet's nest. Cennon Chelses (071-352 5095) Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

THE INCLE THIS (PG): Greatly engaging comedy settlering taken neo-realism and the acreening of films on television. Written and directed by, and steming, Meuricia Nichetti — an Italian comic hugely popular on his home turf.

Matro (071–437 0757).

THE LITTLE MERIAND (U): Deney's much-touried version of Here O's letter

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatra in London House full, returns only ☐ Some saids evallable
☐ Seats at all prices Note: There may be slight changes to performance times during the Christmas week

Q OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs, Nacional Williams posice, in least Rey Coomey large: over-plotted, under-

PIANO: Awkward but highly wetcheble accressor by Traver Griffies of Checkyven

☐ PRIVATE LIVES: Keith Bester, Joan Collins and Sara Crowe in Coward's comedy. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Underground: Covent Garden, Mon-Fri, Sprn, Sat, B.30pm, mets Wed, 3pm, Sat, Sprn. Running time: 2tre 15mins. Ende Jenuary 25. (Open Jun 1)

TI THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Paucous and wild, hald and bearin; some reactions and would, labor and according rook musical.
Placedilly, Dennian Street, Wt (071-867
1118). Underground: Placedilly Circus. Mon-Thors. Born. Frf, Bat., Tom sixt 9.15gm,
Funning time: 1hr 30mins. (Open Jen 1)

I SCENES FROM A MANRIAGE, AM Howard and Penny Downie in Bergmen's two hander: disappointingly deck aller his transfer from Crachester.

London WC2 (071-840 1086/1911), 2.30pm, 7.30pm.

wild animals in the ring). Hippodroma Tent, Santonies, Psuk, London SW11 (071-924 1111), 3pm, 8pm.

CINEMA GUIDE

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillmen's

◆ THE NEVERENDING STORY PART 2

 PRESUMED SINOCENT (15): Alan
 Presument thoughtul version of Scott J. Paluta's riveting, thoughtful version of Sc Turow's bestseller, with Hamson Ford and

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warmivess sweep by Bernardo Bertaluca with John Malkoveh and Dabra Winger.

Odeon Leicester Square (071-930 8111).

or the new pop culture fact. Carriori Chelcen (071-152 50) THREE SISTEMS (12): Chestinar updated to an itselfan university town in the 1980s. Sparies fly from all three actresses (Fanny Archent, Gestin Scarcoti, Valent Goffino), yet the film stays in low geer. Director, Margarethe Non-Trock.

Premium (07) 409 4470.

TIME OF THE OVERSIES (15): Noby incocunit of Yugushu gypty youngstars conscripted into an entry of theves. Dezeling set-pieces, but the dejointed narrative stops the film's energy. Camden Pisza (071-485 2443) Chelese

IT TIME AND THE COMMAYS: Joan

El TIME AND THE COMMAYS: Joen Powinght and lots of other Diffusion in Prison cultain play, set in 1919 (twice) and 1938, Old Vic. Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Frl, 7.30pm, Sat, 7.45pm, mata Wed. 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Flunning time: 2hrg 36mins. Ende February 18. (Open Jen 1)

assent and bissoust juriseting preserved in the sepic of Joe Orton's wit. Not quite a top-class production but well worth seeing. Hampstead, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). Underground: Swise Cottage Mon-Bet, Spm, mat Set, Apm. Running time: 2ms. Extended to January 16. (Open Jen 1)

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incent.

IN THE WIND IN THE WILLDING: AUG

Barnett's enchanting new version, with joby sets popping up on the revolve, with Grift Rhys Jones, Richard Briese and al. Hastores (Christof (as with Tonight-ax. 7.18pm, mats tomorow-Sat, 2pm. Funning time: 2hs 45mms. (Open Jen 1)

The Christopher Communication of the Communication

) . . . D Shirtey Valentine: Duke of ork's (071-836 5122) (Open Jan 1) . . . D A

IT THE REFEARSAL: NO MICROSTALES

stylein production (contumes by Jasper Corren) of Anguilh's seduction play, Garrick, Chering Cross Road, WC2 (371-979 6107). Underground: Lescenter Square, Mon-Sat. 7.45pm, rests 7uss. Spr., Sat, 4pm. Rumwing time: 2hre 30mms. (Open Jan 1)

TODAY'S EVENTS

WINNING MOVE

I

ETTO O

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is the conclusion of This position is the concession of the game Larsen — Speelman. Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1985/87, How did Black mate immediately? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Top Grandmasters at this year's Hastings Premier include Speelman, Larsen, Chandler and Sax. (Information: 0424 442500)

GEORGE MELLY: Bease Smith's English descendant continues his annual residence

#### Andersen's funtasy. Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-502 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5605) Wenner (071-439 0791) Whiteless (071-729 2006 2004) leys (071-792 3303/3324).

METHOPOLITAN (15): Whit Stitmen's wickedly works comedy of memors set among hear facility control of memors set among hear facility control of memors and or control of memors and control of the control

THE NEVERLENDING STORY PART 2
(U): A return visit to the land of Fentasta.
Visually spectacular, but the joint is a juriable and an unfilteable child actor, Jonathan Brandis, spoils some of the fun.
Cannonis: Fulham Road (071-370 2536)
Oxford Street (071-535 0310) Werner (071-439 0791) Withfallows (071-770 2576 2592)

Greta Scacchu Carrainns: Futhum Flowd (071-570 assis) Partion Birvet (071-930 0931) Todenhum Court Road (071-936 6148) Warner (071-109 (0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3500,4324).

TEENAGE MILITANT NINUA TURTLES nor are new payers. Common Chelesson (171-152: 3066) Odekans: Keessington (071-602: 3044/5) Swime Colombia (1428: 914 CBM) West End (071-500 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-762: 3308/3324),

A WCRLD WITHOUT PITY (15): Life ewill loves of a Pansian layabout; a promising debut by young French director Eric Rochert, with disaming partomanose (inpolyle Girardot, Miretile Parmer).

#### Square, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, Running time: 2ms 20mns, Enda January 26. (Closed Dec 26, 31, Jan 1) THEATRE GUIDE 2 THREE SISTERS: Three Redigraves in admirable if over-busy production: Vanesse and Lynn outstanding as the older girts. Queen's, Sheftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1185). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7:30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2:30pm. Running time: Shis. (Open Jan 1)

rey cookly more over-passed, sware developed. Steambarry, Steambarry Awares, WCZ (771-379 5399), Underground: Holborn, Mon-Fri, Jam, Sec, 8 Born, mes Wed, 2-30pm, Ser, 5-30pm, Russing time: 2hrs 15mine. (Open Jen

Warmen of thereties.

Warmen of characters.

Watternal (Commisse) (se left). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm. Purreng time: 2ms 10mins.

FUSS ABBOT'S MADHOUSE:

(071-636 2238) (Open Jan 1). Wyndhem's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

> CHRISTMAS SHOW: Songs and steiches by the musical trio who present the popular Thannes Television christian a sessio Removal how for three- to nine-year-olds London WC2 (071-835 6111), 2pm, 4pr

# Children's Christmas shows

Jeremy Kingston reviews what's on stage in London, and suggests productions nationwide

Eddie Nestor and Tony Marshall in Jack and the Beanstalk

sounds as though she gargles with

tadpoles. Brian Hibbard, ex-Fly-

ing Picket, plays the Dame, and

the Channel Tunnel jokes cue in

A Tale of Christmas

Past

Polka Theatre

SCROOGE appears in this blend

of Dickens's life and fiction but

does so as the equivalent of

demon king, aiming to wreck the

young hero's happiness but

thwarted by Fairy Goodness, otherwise Betsy Trotwood.

Though written and directed by

Vicky Ireland, Polka Theatre's

director, the overlap of fact and

fiction could bewilder a child not

The prettily painted sets hinge

The Adventures

of Star Dog

Polka Theatre

FOR the very young this is an

ideal introduction to theatre, as

they sit on cushions in the

Adventure Room beneath the

tented ceiling hung with stars.

Genial old woolgathering Sam

(John Hart Dyke) cooks a lonely

supper, peers through his tele-

scope and down from the sky

comes the mischievous Star Dos

This advertisement for accept-

ably naughty behaviour does all the wrong things with his spoon

(Anthony Corriette).

yet acquainted with either.

Jack and the Beanstalk Albany Empire

THIS theatre is almost as hard to find as the rainbow's end. New Cross is close by but a few signs on the main road would save the motorist from driving past, reversing and setting caught in the oneway system.

Persistence is rewarded with a folly show, directed by American Teddy Kiendl, who puts in a forestage and catwalk that bring the cast right into the audience. Up in the lantern the sole of the giant's boot can be glimpsed, waiting for its abrupt descent in the second half.

Tony Marshall and Eddie Nestor are a grandly aggressive pair of rogues. Jack is played by Judith Jacobs from EastEnders and Gillian Wright is a very funny Princess Fenella, with a compulsion to eat frogs and a voice that puns on "oui". Great stuff.

#### The Gingerbread Man Unicorn Theatre

DESPITE shrieks of "Oh, no, you're not!" and "Behind you!", mass hysteria reminiscent of Beatlemania, and a cacophonous singalong, there is nothing routine about this bright little show by David Wood, far more stimulating than the average panto.

Salt, Pepper, and Herr von Cuckoo come to life à la Nutcracker and encounter the newly baked Gingerbread Man among the stock cubes on the kitchen dresser. Von Cuckoo is faced with oblivion in the dustbin if he cannot cure his sore throat and do some decent clock-clucking, while old Ginger's destiny seems to lie in a breakfast-time Armageddon, assuming Sleek the Mafioso Mouse does not munch him first, and that he can escape the clutches of the

Old Bag, a grumpy teapot-dweller. With its imaginative depth, ambivalent characters and unpatronising approach, this would be the ideal children's play, if only the singing were better, Recommended, nevertheless. ● 6 Great Newport St, WC2 (071

836 3334). Underground: Leicester Square. Dec 27 to 30, Jan 2, 3, 5, 6, 12. 13: 2.30pm. £3.50-£6.50.

In London

• ANGELO: Seasonal revival of

Aged three and upwards.

Playhouse, Northumberland Ave-

nue, WC2 (071 839 4401). Under-

ground: Embankment. Today,

4pm and 7.30pm; Dec 27, 2.30pm

and 7.30pm; Dec 28, 7.30pm; Dec

29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, £8-£16.

• CINDERELLA: Bonnie Lang-

ford goes to the ball, assisted by

Barbara Windsor, Gyles Brand-

Wimbledon Theatre, The Broad-

way. SW19 (081 540 0362).

Underground: Wimbledon. To-

day-Set and Dec 31 to Jan 5:

reth and other TV names.

GMM 071 580 5845 et 071 880 9562 Open Feb 27th Dun't Miss The Real Munical

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MICHAEL WRIGHT



 THE HORSE AND HIS BOY: Sumptuous costumes, evocative lighting and beautifully stylised horses overcome arid patches of Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (081 741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Today, 3pm, Dec 27-29, 3pm and 6.30pm. To Jan

• JACK AND THE BEAN-

Shaw, 100 Euston Road, NW1

Lazzeri makes a sprightly young Charles (also the Artful Dodger) guiding his younger brother (Joanne McInnes) through the early adventures of Oliver, David and Pip. Bill Sykes's dog, painted on the seat of an upturned stool and kicked to keep him quiet, is a good incident, but parents are advised to brief children beforehand, and probably throughout.

240 Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 (081 543 4888). Today: 2pm and 5.30pm; Dec 27, 28: 10.30am

• Douglas Way, Deptford, SE8

(081 691 3333). Tue to Sat:

7.30pm. Mats Thurs, Fri, Sat:

2pm. £2.50-£7.50. Underground:

open cunningly, and Martino

New Cross. 2hrs 30mins.

the the

and 2pm; Dec 29, Jan 1: 2pm and 5.30pm; Jan 2: 2pm; Jan 3, 4: 10.30am and 2pm. £6. Under-ground: Wimbledon. 2hrs. and spaghetti but has brought his

teria on the cushions, while his bedtime story is the Three Billygoats Gruff ingeniously told with dishmops. On display in the foyer are costumes, props and models from previous productions. Cakes, drinks and hot food available at

own toothbrush. His attempts to

clamber into pyjamas caused hys-

the Pantry. ● 240 Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 (081 543 4888). Today (Dec 26): 12.30pm and 2.30pm; Dec 27, 28: 11am and 2.30pm: Dec 29: Jan 1: 12.30pm and 2.30pm; Jan 2, 3, 4: 11am and 2.30pm. £2.20. Underground: Wimbledon. 45

(071 388 1394). Underground:

Euston. Today to Dec 29, and 31

to Jan 5: 2.30pm and 7pm (only

7pm perf on Jan 1). £3.95-£8.75.

JUST SO: The Elephant's

Child finds out about life. A

musical version that lacks grip-

ping power but the lyrics have wit

Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road,

NW6 (071 328 1000). Under-

ground: Kilburu. Mon to Sat 8pm,

■ ROBIN HOOD: Surprisingly

unsparky panto for this home of jolly rudery. Colin Gourlay is an

amiably wimpish hero and Philip

Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (081 534

0310). Underground: Stratford.

Today to Dec 29, Dec 31 to Jan 5:

2.15pm and 7.15pm. £4-£10. Until

Out of London

• BRISTOL The Red Balloon

mat Sat, 4pm. £5.50-£9.

Pellew a moronic torturer.

and some of the effects are firm.

To Jan 12.

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TINA Williams has been touring her Pied Piper company to schools and arts centres since 1984 and clearly knows the needs of her young audience, since her play is making a return visit to the

Fortuge. Her story about five toys who outwit their mean old shopkeeper may seem artiess to adults but the youngsters are kept enthralled by the bold posturing of Muscleman and by Legoman's trip to the. Planet of Opposites, where the inhabitants are divided between the sad and the happy, the silly and the sensible, and long to be a bit of both.

The message that everyone has a bit of the opposite inside them is one that no audience is too young to learn - even Muscleman starts to use his brain and discovers a way to avoid being left overpriced and unsold on the shelf. Would that all retailers could suffer the fate of selfish Mr Tweezledown • Russell St., WC2 (071 836 2238). Underground: Covent Garden. Dec . 26: 2pm: Dec 27 to 29: 11am and 2pm. £5.50-£8.50. 1hr 30mins.

#### The Hare and the Tortoise Puppet Theatre Barge

MOORED in Little Venice, this red and yellow striped barge is easy to find. Inside, the ten rows slope up from the stage, giving the impression of sitting in a rollercoaster pausing on its glide home. Two puppeteers work the lion, fox, gnat and other creatures, intricately carved and jointed, in four loosely connected Aesop tales. The cat looks like no known breed and the tortoise moves oddly, but the mouse is delightful. Rudolph Walker's voice narrates a somewhat stilted storyline but the puppets have a delicate charm and an inner silence (yes, I know they are made of wood) that is the stuff of magic. For the youngest.

• Little Venice, Bromfield Road, W9 (071-249 6876) Daily 3pm, Sun noon. £4, children £3.40. Underground: Warwick Ave. 1hr

 FARNHAM Treasure Island: Deeds of derring-do on the high seas and up Spyglass Hill; with music but no panto tricks.

Redgrave, Brightwells (0252)

715301). From today, Tue to Sat,

two shows daily, various times (ring for details). Until Jan 19. • MANCHESTER The Weirdstone of Brisingamen: Gripping production of Alan Garners . sdventure set around and under Alderley Edge.

Contact, Oxford Road (061-274 " 4400). Tomorrow to 29th, Jan 2-5, ; 2pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 19. NEWCASTLE Trouble Under Foot: An adventure underground

Tyne/Wear Theatre in Education. Booking essential. Guibenkian Studio, Kings Walk, Haymarket (091-232 9974). From today, Mon-Sat, 11am and 2pm. Until Jan 12.

presented by Northern Stage and -

 SOUTHAMPTON Around the World in Eighty Days : Granville Saxton girdles the globe in Patrick Sandford's adaptation of Verne. Nuffield, University Road (0703 671771). Today to 29th, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 19.

Tomorrow: Children's exhibitions, museums and indoor events Friday: Children's outdoor events

AUSTEN BROTHERS CIRCUS: The renovement carear returns in Batterness Park with its usual value-for-money show. Expect Mongoten contortionsts, the swent-t-wonling Konyots clowns and vanous aenal acts (no with sealands on the work.)

with John Chilton's Feetwarmers. Ronnie Scott's Club, Frith Street, London W1 (071-439 0747), 8.30pm. POYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTFIAL PUTYLE PRINTERS AND A CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONTROL OF T and Grieg's Plane Concerto (acides Murr McLachten) Sertican Hall, Sill Street, Lundon EC2 (071-038 IEEF), 7.45pm. THE ROD, JANE AND FREDDY

Quentin Blake's tale of a family of Italian acrobats, performed by rod puppers.
Little Angel Marionette Theatre,
off Cross St, .14 Dagmar Passage, off Cross St, NI (071 226 1787). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Today-Dec 30, 3pm; Dec 27, 28, 3pm and 6.30pm; Jan 2-6, 3pm. £3-£4. 1hr 30mins. Shorter version for 3 to 6year-olds: Dec 29 and Jan 2 to 5: 11am, £2,50-£3,50. 1hr 15mins. CAPTAIN BEAKY AND HIS Captala Beaky: Owlish Patrick BAND: Musical show, based on Cargill with David Keisey (see left) the Jeremy Lloyd book, tells some sospel stories from the animals 2.30pm and 7.30pm. £7.50-POV. Done with panto effects and Patrick Cargill playing Artful Owl.

talk in this C.S. Lewis story.

STALK: Rodney Bewes plays a likely Dame with Suzy Aichison as Jack.

Anthony Clark's highly praised production of a Parisian boy befriended by his enchanted balloon. Old Vic, King Street (0272 250250). From today, Mon to Sat, 3pm and 7.30pm. Until Feb 9.

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Cottan Recoming to the Market Name and Nam CURZOON PROCESS Procests 51, off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 Michel Piccoli Mises Moss In Louis Malle's BELOU IN MAY (15) "Subtle, respect, best and delightur" "T Props & 2 200 fnot Son) 4.10 6.20 8.40

The state of the s

arms has been touring er company to school ntres since 1984 and ws the needs of he mce. Since her plays return visit to the about five toys who about the toys who mean old shopkepe ruless to adults but the are kept enthalled by sturning of Muscleman

goman', imp to the Opposition, where the Opposition, where the are divided between a the happy, the silt sible, and iong to be a age that men one has age that them as and them a suddening to too your won Mercleman stark prain ara discovers a d being coverpried on the stall World arlers — Suffer the said weezledown ad Commission - St

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..... Midnight-7,05em Test Metch Methourne on the titet day or the second Test 6.55am Weather and News Headlines (FM only) 7.00 Christmes in Paris: Perotin (Sederunt principes: Hillerd Ensemble); M-A Charpentier (In nativitatem domine nostri Jesu Christi canticum: Les Arts Eleviscottu under William and Programmed and American Section 2015 Christe)
7.30 News
7.35 News
7.35 Morning Concert: Rossini
(String Sonata No 6 in D:
Berlin PO under von Kerajan);
of Cepusa (O Sole mio: ECO
under Edoardo Müller);
D. Scartatti (Sonata in B minor,
K 87: Vladimir Horowitz,
piano); Mozart (Concerto in C,
K 295: Academy of St Martinin-the-Fields under Neville
Martiner)

The second secon

in-the-Fields under Neville
Manner)

8.30 News

8.35 Composers of the Week:
Offenbach, Five Songs (Bruno
Laplante, barifone, Marc
Durand, pisno); Galike
partisienne, arr Manuel
Rosenthall (Fittsburgh SO
under André Previn)

9.35 Midweek Choice with Susan
Shane Mozart (Exultate principal district The state that county Contraction of the second THE TIME

5 Michweek Choice with Susert Sharpe, Mozart (Exultate jubilate, K 165: Academy of Ancient Music under Hogwood); Arrieu (Wind Quintet); Prokofiev (Peter and the Wolf, Op 87: SNO under Neeme Jervi, with Lina Prokofiev, narretor); Bach, arr Hess (Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring: Myra Hess, piano); Heydn (Symptony No 104, London: Austro-Hungarian Haydn Orchestra under Adam Fischer); Saint-Saëns, arr Glennie (Introduction and Rondo capriccioso: New Priilharmonic Orchestra under Wordsworth, with Evelyn Glennie, percussion) Glennie, percussion)

11.20 Jessye Norman, with the BBC Scottush Symphony Orchestra under Gibson, plays Wagner (Overture, Die Meistersinger; Siegfried loyff); Strauss (Four Langer; Strauss (Four Langer; Strauss (Four Last Songs); Strauss (Don Juan; Salome, Finel Scene), and 12.10pm Interval Reading

7.00pm News [.05 Smetana String Quartet performs Janacek (Quarter No. 1, Kreutzer Sonata); Dvořák (Slong Quintet in E flat, Op 97) (r) 2.00 Record Review (r)

BBC 1

7.00 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, And Peters, and Philippa Forrester begins with Wizbit. Magical adventures with Paul Daniels (r) 7.25 The Nightingale. Christopher Planmer tells the story by Hans Christian Andersen (r) 7.50 Playdays. Includes a wsit to St George's Hospital in Tooting, London (r) 8.10 The Island of Nevawuz. Animated tale set on an undiscovered island 9.00 The Man Called Flintstone. Feature-length musical adventure 10.30 World Cup 90. Desmond Lynam introduces a chance to refive the action from the World Cup finals in Italy. Including England's nai-biting progress through to the semi-finals, Gezza blubbing, Iteland's plucky first appearance in the tournament and Scotland's draimatic departure.

11.30 Film: Are You Being Served? (1977). The staff of Grace Brothers department store take themselves off to the Costa Pionica for some Spanish sauce and double entendres with a distinctly British flavour. Feeble spin-off from the television series with the regular cast headed by Molie Sugden, John Inmen and Frenk Thomton. Directed by Bob Kellett. (Ceefax)

1.00 The Good Life: Sitly But It's Fun. Easy-going cornedy about alternative subsistence in suburbia. Cut off from the usual comforts of civilised life, Christmas does not go quite according to plan. With Richard Briers, Falicity Kendal, Penelope Keith and Paul Eddington (r)

1.30 News with Chris Lowe. Weather

plan. With Richard Eners, Pawary regroup, Parameter Eddington (r)

1.30 News with Chris Lowe. Weather

1.35 Film: The Poseldon Adventure (1972). Very popular but hugely overrated disaster movie with Gene Hackman as the minister who sees the light when an ocean liner is capsized by a giant tidal wave. He leads his small flock along the only feasible route of escape, through the bottom of the ship, which is now the top. Ernest Borgnine, Sheltey Winters and Red Buttons are among those trying to follow him. Directed by Ronald Neame. (Ceetax)

2 an Disnautime. Clips from classic Disney films, including Fantasis. 3.30 Disneytime. Clips from classic Disney films, including Fantasis, Lady and the Tramp, and Chip in Dale
4.10 Jim'll Fix It for Christmas. Small children brave the smoke from Sir

Jimmy Savite's cigars to seize the chance of making their dreems

4.55 Final Score. Sports news presented by Raiph Dellor
5.10 News with Chris Lowe. Weather
5.25 The Russ Abbot Christmas Show. Russ Abbot turns up as an overweight Peter Pan teaching Wendy to fly and starring in the musical story of Hans Christian Andersen. (Ceefax)
6.05 Film: Back to the Future (1985). Spielberg's splendidly entertaining time travel adventure with Michael J. Fox whooshing to international starring as Marty McRu in Christopher Houri's to international standom as Marty McFty in Christopher Lloyd's time machine. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. (Ceefax)



French connection: Therese Liotard and John Nettles (8.00pm)

8.00 Bergerac Christmas Speciet: There for the Picking. As Jim Bergerac (John Nettles) has ratired with girlfriand Denielle (Therese Liotard) to a more leisurely life in Provence, how is Charlie (Therese Liotard) to a more leisurely life in Provence, how is Charlie Hungerford (Terence Alexander) going to worm his way into the plot of this feature-length edition of the Jersey detective series? Jersey police discover a cache of grenades in a consignment of whisky. There seems to be a French connection, and Jim's old colleagues request his assistance. A feature-length special, with a new series to follow early in 1991. (Ceetax)

9.40 Smith and Jones. Quirky comedy from Griff Phys Jones and Mei Smith, striving valiantly to avoid all mention of Christmes. Instead they discuss Filiping wives, become involved with organised Welsh crime in the shape of the "Tatia", and attend the funeral of a DIY fanatic. (Ceefax)

West critic in the stape of the "time", and attend the united of a DIY fanatic. (Ceefax)

10.10 News with Chris Lowe. (Ceefax) Weather

10.25 Film: Pottergelst II (1982). The Freeling family obey the fundamental rule of horror movies and do something no one in their right mind would even contemplate—they move back to the house where they were terrorised by supernatural forces in the original Pottergelst. The film follows the law of all sequels in the original of the contemplate of the first they have been in the own sight it is the original or the contemplate. reproduce the success of the first, though seen in its own right it is fairly spooky. As before, the battle is on between the farility, with the help of an indian shaman and a psychio researcher, and the spirit world, for the persons of little Carol Anne. Directed by Srian Gibeon. (Ceefax)

11.55 Toto - Live in Paris. American rock stars Toto captured in a rare live performance 12.50am Weather

8.00 English Towns. Alec Citton-Taylor explores Lawes, Sussex (r) 6.40 Film: Tarzan Finds a Soni (1939, b/w). The only survivor of a plane crash near Tarzan's home is a baby boy, crying out for warmth and crash near Terzen's home is a baby boy, crying out for warmth and help. Terzen and Jame decide to take him as their own and pales him according to the ways of the jungle. Johnny Weissmuller stars as the ape man and Maureen O'Sullivan as Jane in one of the better Terzan movies. Directed by Richard Thorpe

10.00 Film: Summer Stock (1950), Engaging musical about a farmer's stage-struck eister who invites a theatre troupe to take over the barn for rehearsels. Starring Judy Garland, Gene Kelly and Phil Silvers. Directed by Charles Walton.

11.55 How Are the Kida? The first of a setiles of six programmes examining child exploitation around the world.

12.00 Greenclaws. Animated adventure for children (f).

12.15 The Unanswered Question: Leonard Bernstein at Harvard — Musical Phonology, His aix Hervard University technes are being

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12.15 The Unanswered Question: Leonard Semister at Hervard —
Musical Phonology, His six Hervard University tectures are being
repeated as a tribute to the calebrated conductor, composer and
plantst Leonard Bernstein, who died in October. This one includes
a complete performance of Mozart's Symptomy No 40. (f)
2.00 The Transformers: The Substitles of Zagoratic. This first of these
programmes on the art of inspired teaching tells the story of
children studying at the deaf-blind school in Zagoratic, near
Moscow. Though these children never stop "speaking", the only
sound to be heard is that of fluttering fingers, hence the parallel
with butterfiles. (Ceetax)

with butterflies. (Cester) Beethoven Symphonies. Roger Norrington conducts the London Classical Players' performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 4 in Control of the Control of Centrol of C

3.35 Laurel and Handy in Bacon Grabbers (1829, b/w).

3.55 Beethoven Symphonies. The London Classical Players, conducted by David Norrington, perform on original instruments, which emphasise the sense of challenge to be found in Beethoven's Symphony No 5 in C Minor, Op 67

4.30 Cricket Second Test. Highlights from the first day of the second Test between Australia and England in Melbourna

5.00 Le Nazze di Figaro. Simon Ristile conducts the Glyndebourne production of Mozart's Le Nazzi di Figaro. This beautiful acore is performed on period instruments by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in the Festival Opera production. The tale spins a web of intrigue, double-standards and infidelity, all of which take place when Figaro, Count Almanive's valet, is due to marry the Countess's maid Susanna

8.00 Film: Manon des Sources (1986). Concluding the sage of Jean de Florette, this stunning drama focuses on the feuding over weter

8.00 Film: Manon des Sources (1985). Concluding the sage of Jean de Floratte, this stunning drams focuses on the feuding over weter supplies in rural France during the Twenties. In French with English subtition. Oversed by Claude Barri 9.50 A Life in Pieces: Partridge in a Peer Tree. Peter Cook as Sir Arthur Streeb-Greebling in a series of comic Interviews with Ludovic Kennedy. Tonight's programme sees him choosing 12 gifts with a difference for the 12 days of Christmas



Memories of Clydeckie: Tom Watson as Hughie (9.55pm)

9.55 This Bits).

• CHOICE: Bit Bryden's opic tribute to shipbuilding on the Clyde performed in a converted engine shed as part of Glesgow's European City of Culture celebration, makes an effective translation to the small screen. The fluid structure of the piece, in which performers are brought together with the audience, lends itself to television presentation and viewers will have a more itself to television presentation and viewers will have a more privileged view than many of those at the performance. Although the subject is big, many of show's scenes are small and intimate, involving only a few characters, and this, too, works to television's adventage. The Ship offers a tapestry rather than a neretive, weaving together various strands which make up the community and its culture. Work, and the price and insecurity that goes with it, is only part of a landscape that takes in the pub, the wash day and the dance hall and is socially split between Catholics and Professionia.

11.35 Film: Suspicion (1941, b/w). Joan Fontaine puts in a periect Oncer-winning performance in Alfred Hitchcock's nerve-racking thriller. A placid, insipid girt merries a handsome playboy (Cary Grant). She soon finds her happiness slowly drained from her as she discovers that her apparently charming husband is not quite what he seems. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. (Ceetax) 9.25 Christmas Duckula 9.50 T-Bag's Christmas Ding-Dong starring Glanda Jackson and Georgins Hale 10.20 Daffy Duck (r) 10.35 Film: Candisahos (1977) starring David Nivan, Leo McKern, Jodie Foster and Helen Hayes. Harry Bundage, an English con artist, attempts to pass off 14-year-old tomboy, Casey Brown, as an

heiress. Niven fans will enjoy his performance as the butter but there is little else to get excited about. Directed by Norman Tokar 12.25 Neves with Nicholas Owen, Weather 12.30 Film: Return to Oz. (1985) starring Piper Laurie, Nicol Williamson and Jean Marsh. Six months after her first edventure in the fantasy and Jean Marsh. Sor months after her first edventure in the fantasy tend, Dorothy is suffering from nightmens, which she takes to mean that her thends there are in trouble, and to she returns to do hattle once again with the evil forces that threaten Oz's existence. Directed by Walter Murch.

2.30 Beatrix Potter: The Tale of Little Pig Robinson. Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Timothy Spall and Thora Hird star in a delightful dramatisation of the Beatrix Potter story.



A lutching inerstant Polly Walter as Loren Doone (3.30)m)

3.30 Film: Lorne Doone (1930).

© CHOICE: Swirling mists and galloping horses greet a new version of R.D. Blackmore's classic romance which is strongly enough cast to be able to use players of the quality of Robert Stephens and Kenneth Heigh in cameo roles. The excellent Billie Whiteleast a mistage programment and Section Received.

Stephens and Kenneth Heigh in cameo roles. The excellent Billie Whitelew is rather more promisent and Seen Bean's Carver Doone is a dashingly hendsome villain. So much so that Citive Owen's John Ridd is a mite upstaged, but Polly Walker is a fetching Loma. Matthew Jecobe's screenplay plays down the 17th century political background and represents the Ridd-Doone conflict as a feud in a Hollywood western, complete with climactic shoot-out. Bleak and wintry locations emphasise the darker aspects of the story but younger viewers will be reassured by a denouement in which the forces of good are clearly seem to triumph. The mixture of sccents, with mummerset alongside hints of Scottish and Irish, can be a little jarning. (Oracle)

can be a little jaming. (Oracle)

5.15 News with Nicholas Owen. Sport and weather

5.30 The Krypton Factor Special. Television's toughest quiz gets the feative treatment with celebrities from The Bill, Enmerdale, Coronation Street and Brookside taking part. (Oracle)

6.00 Christmas Cluedo. Viewers get the chance to play detective in this television version of the popular board game
6.45 This is Your Life. An extended version of the show in which Michael Aspel surprises another femous face in an edition that will bring back memories of hilanous Christmases of days gone by 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)

8.00 Film: Dirty Dancing (1987) starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Superficial, but highly entertaining film, that makes good use of some raunchy dence numbers and scooped an Oscar for the song "The Time of My Life", Directed by Emile Ardolino, (Oracle) 9.50 The Bill: Safe As Houses. Supergrass Lennie Powell laps up the

comfort of police protection from the Sun Hill officers and decides to offer them information. (Oracle)

10.20 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather

10.30 Film: Police Academy 2 — Their First Assignment (1985) starring Stove Guttenberg, Bubba Smith and Colleen Camp. More adventures of the trainee cope, mane slepstick comedy that was even worse than the first one but proved extremely popular at the

box office. Directed by Jerry Paris, (Oracle)

12.10am Film: The Return of the Seven (1986) starring Yul Brynner,
Robert Fuller and Warren Oates. Six more gun fighters are
recruited by Yul Brynner and storm a Mexican town to set free an
imprisoned friend. Directed by Burt Kennedy 2.00 Film: Robbery under Arms (1985) starring Sam Neil, Christopher Cummins and Steven Vidler. Two brothers are ordered to meet

their father, an Englishman transported to New South Wales after being convicted of armed robbery. While there, they encounter his leader, notorious Capitain Startight, the bushranger. Directed by Ken Hannam and Donald Crombie 4.00 America's Top Ten. A look at the top ten acts of the Sixties 4.30 Film: The Pickwick Papers (1985), Feature-length cartoon version of the Dickens classic directed by Warwick Gilbert 5.85 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman, Ends at 5.00

(0.00 Carry On Up the Knyber (1990) The Carry On team are at the north-west frontier during the time of the British Rej. 12.00 The Witzers of Ox. (1989): Judy Gartand follows the yellow brick road. 2.00pm The Purple People Easter (1998): A cardia files has a cardia site, has a facilitate for the purple of the

music 4.00 Arthur 2 on the Rocks (1999): Steming

saylum and is accused of murder 4.00 Back to Richool (1988): A minimum

Vie the Astra sapaths.
 7.30mm Benetiali B.30 Eurobica 9.00 Jude 9.30 Ascent of the Matterhorn' Documentary 11.00 Equistrianism 12.00 Eurobica 12.30pm 1990 Tennis Classics 2.30 1990 Tennis Classics 4.30 Surling 5.00 toe Stating 8.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Trans. World Sport B.00 Railying 9.00 Book 17.00 Cross Country String 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Bodybuilding

Vis the Astra setelite.

7.00sm Skiing 8.00 tos Hookey 10.00 Motor News 10.30 Hopodoms 17.00 ke Hocksy 1.00pm Tenpin Bowling 1.30 Live Heaten Bestelball Week 4.00 High Five 4.30 World Superbite Championships 5.00 World Cup Figure Skating 6.00 This Retiment's Centerny Shooker Challenge 8.00 Heatern

FURGSPORT

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CHANNEL 4 and the second

6.00 Bobby Jones Gospel. The best of American gospel music from Nashville, Tennessee (r) 6.30 The Art of Landscape. Scenes of the natural world set to soothing music 7.00 All's Special Day. Magician Ali Bongo entertains (r) 7.30 Kaboodle. Two stories, one about a horse-mad little girl who ends up in an unusual place, the other about a little boy who cannot get rid of his hiccups
8.00 The Christmas Tree Train. Cartoon (r) 8.25 Ric. Cartoon 8.30

9.00 The Christmas Iree Iran. Cancon (i) o.25 had cancon sand The Turkey Caper
9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line 9.15 Countdown Masters
9.25 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children 10.25
Batman and Robin (b/w). Episode Ihree

10.50 Ibiza — A Short Film About Chilling, Ibiza has one of the livelest club scenes in Europe. This film looks at the time when 500 British reveilers went to libiza for the start of the season, enjoying wild

party nights, and "chilling" during the daytime (r)

11.30 Tony Jacklin's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge. New series with professional golfars Sam Torrance and Roman Rafferty teaming up with sportamen and entertainers for the Whyte & Mackay Scotch

Trophy. From Le Touquet snooker ace Dennis Taylor partners Torrance against Rafferty and entertainer Bruce Forsyth

12.35 Channel Racing from Kempton Park. Live coverage of the 12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 (King George VI Rank Chase) and 2.50 races

3.10 Animalions. Western from Hungary and Petronella from the United

3.30 Film: International House (1933, b/w). Hit and miss WC Fields comedy in which a mixed bunch of travellers find themselves quarantined in a Shanghai hotel with an eccentric inventor who is perfecting his television apparatus. Starry cast includes George Burns, Gracie Allen and Bela Lugosi. Diracted by Edward Surredayo

mery and weather 4.55 Faerle Tale Theatre: The Princess Who Had Never Lauched. Starring Ellen Barkin, Howie Mandell and Howard Hesseman. (Teletext)
The Further Adventures of Billy the Fish

6.00 The Wonder Years. American comedy about a young boy growing up in the Sixties (r)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are actor Jeff Goldblum

and comedian Pete McCarthy

7.00 Padra Pablo. A portrait of Canadian Fr Harvey Steele who is
venerated by millions of Latin Americans who know him as "Padra
Pablo". The chain-smoking, whisky-drinking Roman Catholic
firebrand has made enemies — and not just because of his unconventional lifestyle. In the Dominican Republic and Panama he has helped working people to establish credit unions and marketing cooperatives, in so doing helped to give the poor more power over their economic future. (Teletext)

8.00 Brookside. Down-to-earth Liverpool scap. (Teletext) 8.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show, Celebrities turn out to pay their respects to one of America's most popular chat show hosts



Portrait of a composer under stress: Tchalkovsky (9.25pm)

9.25 Tchaikovsky – Fate,

• CHOICE: Christopher Nupen concludes his "musical biography" by picking up the story at the composition of the Fourth Symphony in 1878 and taking it through to the composer's death 15 years later. As in his earlier film, Tchailcovsky's Women, hupen's approach is unpretentious and accessible and largely allows the subject to speak for himself through his letters and his music, with only a light critical gloss. Played by the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy, the music is smoothly integrated into the namative and never used simply to fill it out. Still photographs indicate how quickly Tohalkovsky aged and the lettere reveal a continual fear of creative decline. The multi-works of his later period, the three final symphonies and Manfred, demonstrate that, on the contrary, his creative powers were

maintained to the and 11.00 Film: Requiem for Dominic (1990). Drama-documentary about Dominic Parashchiv, a childhood friend of director Robert Domhelm, who was accused of being a member of Cesusesou's ... secret police and murdered

12.40am Dancedaze recorded at the Brixton Academy 1.40 The Other Side of Gerry Sadowitz. Brusque comadian Gerry Sadowitz concludes his atternative guide to the art of the close-up card macician. Ends at 1.55

#### ITV VARIATIONS

CENTRAL As London except: 2.00em Film: Screem of the Wolf 3.20 Prolife 3.30-4.00 Cinem Himo-

Starts: 5.00em Early Morning 9.25 Set Street 10.25 The Adventures of Setmer Street 10.25 The Adventures of Setmen and Robin 10.50 Facric Tale Theatre: Jack and Y Own 12.15 Slot Maithon 12.85 Channel 4 Y Cwm 12.15 Slot Meither 12.85 Channel 4
Recorp from Kempton Park 3.10 Film: 8' a A
Get" 4.30 Slot 23 5.20 Brookside 5.60
Newyddion 6.00 Pento'r Wyl 7.45 Filmsedall 8.20 Eining 9.00 Dei Ar Y Print 10.00 Nigeli Kennedy Pleys Bruch 10.45 Slity the Fish
11.00 Requiem For Dominic 12.40 Denoticiaze 1.40 The Other Side of Jerry Sadowicz
1.55 Diwedd

RTE 1 RITE 1
Starte: 9.00am The Fluppy Dage 9.56
Million Doller Duck 11.20 Vincent and Ma
1.00 Nerve 1.05 Disney Cartoon 1.10 Filtre
Dentry — Champion of the World 2.55;
Fiddler on the Roof 6.00 The Angelus 6.01
News 6.15 Disney Cartoon 8.25 No 1
Christmas Spotial 7.00 Apples in Winter
8.00 Faces and Places 9.00 News 9.15 The
Liliac Bus 10.40 Filtre: Reteng Arizona
12.15am News 12.25 Close

Special (MW only): Australia v England. Commentary from Melbourne on the first day of

Arts Florisgents under William



Clock and degger: Toyeh Willcox as Miss Souriet; (init) and Kele O'Mars as Mrs Peacock (TV, 8.80pm)

(a) Stereo on PM 5.55em Shipping Forecast 6.00 Name Brighing, Weather 6.10 Protuce 8.50 Prayer for the

7-00 News 7.10 Cold Turkey, Incl. 8.00 News, 8.55, 7.55 Westher 8.45 Wilters William and the Princess Goldlocks,

9.05 No Mik Today, the Streek Hea.
Gone Away: The residents of
Herbert Streek in Traharbart
prepare for their twentieth
annual holiday together in
Swein (1)

5 Word Detectives: OCHOICE: Although The Times's resident etymologist, Philip Howerd, is not consulted by Eric Robson as he mingles with the lesicographiers, this newspaper provides vital source material. There's a consultate which the fift. The

computer which sits The Times every week for new words. Sacily, the only two quoted this morning are both thereis: alsospeare and

Rereis: akssperre and adminit. Compilers of new dictionaries don't turn a link at microwaveable but microwaveablety will have to wast, write certain foodmulis.

acceptance the moment they appear on the supermarket

appear on the supermarket shelves
10.00 News; Smash of the Day: I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again. The first of four cases complete from the erchives (r)
10.30 Morning Story: Life Without George, by Lynne Truss
10.45 Daily Service (s)
11.00 News; Fer from the Madding Crowd: The Seeds of Love, The third of a six-part dramatisation of Thomas Hardy's novel (s)
12.00 News; Something to Celebrate: Part 3: A personal

12.00 News; Something to
Celebrate; Part S: A personal
journey from Greenham to
Cembridge
12.25pm Families and How to
Survive Tham; John Classe
and psychatrist or Robin
Skymer discuss how
relationships are formed,
sustained and developed (3 of
6) (4) 12.55 Westers

Spain (r) 9.35 Word Detectives:

RADIO 3 RADIO 4

3.10 Vintage Years:

• CHOICE: When scheduled

some months ago, today's recording of Torteller playing Strauss's Don Quicots with the RPO under Beecham was

just another tribute to the virtuoso cellist. It has now become a memorial occasio it was the matching of this

It was the matching of this cellist, orchestra and conductor in 1947 (the year the recording was made) that launched the Frenchman's international career. Judge for you self how right The Times obituary writer was last week to speak of the unrivalled ampathy with which Torteller impersonated Cervanter's sad and county with which Torteller.

and county knight
4.00 Choral Evensong: Live from
Westminster Abbey
5.00 Le nozze di Figero:
Glyndebourne Chorus under

Glyndebourne Chorus under David Angus; Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Simon Paties performs Mozert's opera to a libratio by Lorenzo da Ponte after the play by Beaumarchaia. Sung in Italian (simultaneous broadcast with BBC2)

8.00 Landscape with Classical Ruins: The 18th-century poet and satirist Alexander Pope regarded himself as a friend of virtue and foe to vice and folly.

regarded himself as a friend or virtue and foe by vice and folly. In Carey Herrison's dramatic feature, set in a house Pope thinks he knowe, he is surrounded by a world dominated by physical suffering, victous satire and fantasy bordering on madness. With Sam Destor Gelebrity Recital: The pisnust Alfred Brendel plays Haydn (Sonata in G minor, H XVI 44): Brahms (Four Balledes, Op 10); Weber (Sonata in A flat, Op 39); Mendelssohn (Variations serieuses); Beethoven (Sonata in F minor, Op 57, Appassionata), Incl 10.05 Interval Reading 11.00 Farnaby Brass Ensemble performs Glass Farnaby, am Harriess (Four Farnaby Fances); Gordon Jacob (Changang Moods); Alam Bullard (ESSay)

11.30 Composers of the Weelc Handel (f)

11.5-7,05am Test Match Special (MW only): Australia v Fancand. Commentary from

(MW only): Australia v England. Commentary from Melbourne on the second day

of the second Test 12.30-12.35am News (FM only)

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6.00em Cricies: The Astre Tour. England v
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Reposition, followed by Playabout 8.10
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1.10 News Cluz of the Teer (s) (c)
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.56 Shipping
2.00 News; With Great Passure
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Porntt union a his production

Plantit setember his because the poetry and proced of Toest Hell: A drematisation of Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows (r)
4.30 Ad Lib: Robert Robinson tallor to a group of jockeys, boolder and punters in Bellint (r)
6.00 Name
6.05 Singin' in the Rein: The stans of one of MGM's most popular musicale, including Gene

musicals, including Gene Kally, recall memories of life

on the set (a) 5.50 Stripping Forecast and 5.55 Weether 6.00 Str. O'Clock News 6.16 The Village: Series focuseing on the Ris of a small rural

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story of an ugly sister and a wicked elepmother

10.00 Never 10.05 The Three-Minute Medient Robert Sandal tooks at the chenging nature of the pop industry over the past 30

industry over the peat 30 years (a)

10.45 A Book At Bedfilmer in My Wilder Dresms, by Lesier Thomas (10 of 12) (a) (r)

11.00 Looking Forward to the Peat: Robert Booth Wisse a light-hearted view of history (s) (r)

11.30 The Tingle Factor: Devid Puttnern talks to Robin Ray about the music that storie a shiver up his spine (s) (r)

abiver up his spine (s) (r) 12.00-12.30em News, incl 12.20 Westfar 12.33-12.43 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Servicat MW-648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/251m; FM 97.3. Capitat: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLP: 1458kHz/206m; FM-94.9; Metody FM 104.9.

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 6.00em Showcome
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 10.00em Everyday Workout 10.30 Search for Tomorow 10.55 Coffee Breek 11.00

All Stereo and MW, 5.00em Gery King 7.30
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12.20pm Gery Davies 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.30 The Chalatean Concerts: Knetworth 90 10.30 Victor Lewis Smith 11.00-2.00em Bob Hester

FM Steres 4.00am Steve Medden 7.00 Floger Role 9.00 Kattle Boyle 11.00 Determined Control Double Bilt: The Men from the Ministry, arxis at 1.30 The Nevy Lark 2.00 A Merry Christmas Irom Manchester 3.00 Best of "A House in a Garden" 5.00 Gerald Happer: Scoring Day Selection 7.00 Chris Stuart and Friends 7.30 A Traditional Yorkshire Christmas 8.00 The Sweetness of a Man of Strings: The Yethes calcitrate the 150th amhierstery of the birth of Thomas Hardy (r) 9.00 Nigel Option: The Organist Entertains 9.30 The Golden Years 10.00 Nigel Bruce 12.05am Henry Mancini 1.00-4.00am Bill Rennada with Night Fidel

Runn Brace v2. Usam Henry Mencini 1.00-4.00em Bill Rennella with hight Fide

8.00em World Service: Newsdeak 6.30 News;
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£2 a week will buy this grandmother the health and



For Maura Pangilinan from the Philippines, picking rice in the paddy fields was her only source of income until failing health stopped her from working.

Her two children were too poor to support her, and Maura became terrified of her future. Now, thanks to a family from the UK who sponsor her, Maura can face the future without

For just £2 a week they provide Maura with the basic essentials of life such as food and medicine. What's more, the same money also supports community projects which help other elderly people in need.

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905714, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London, EC1B 1BD. Yes, please tell me more about sponsoring a gran or granded.

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# Schools may be allowed to train most of own teachers

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

PLANS to allow schools to train most of their own teachers are now being considered by the government, which believes that the academic standards of many student teachers, and the training

they receive, is too low.

Michael Fallon, the junior schools minister, said: "We have to restore public confidence in the teacher-training system. Training in no other profession is as important to the public and over the past few months there has

been growing concern."
The government is in favour of school training that would be paid for by transferring money from the training colleges, which were not filling all their student places, be said. Primary training places are oversubscribed, but in September there were an estimated 1,500 vacancies for secondary school

Schools that did train their own teachers would be able to plan ahead. If they knew two science teachers would be retiring in two years' time, for example, they could begin training their replacements," Mr Fallon said.

The changes will be school driven and not imposed on them. If they want to bid for a greater say in training they should be free to do so. It is clearly not going to work in the smaller primary schools but it should be available for the big secondary schools if they want it."

The proposals would extend the articled and licensed teacher schemes introduced by the govcriment. "We have already broken the monopoly of the teacher training colleges, and that is the key to change," Mr Fallon said.

In September, there were 400 articled teachers, graduates who went straight into schools for two years of training, and 327 licensed teachers: trainees aged more than 26 with at least two years' higher education. About 12,500 newly trained teachers enter the classroom each year.

Mr Fallon is also concerned at the academic quality of some of the students entering teacher training for the bachelor of education degree. Many colleges allow students to enter with only two grade C passes at A-level.

The level has not changed for the past ten years and what is worrying is that it is still too low," he said. "Teacher training is easier to get into than almost any other area of higher education and it

New criteria for course standards have been set for the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (Cate) and Mr Fallon said he was still concerned that they would not be sufficiently rigorous. The government is also concerned that the academic standard of teacher training has been

allowed to drop.

Courses, whether in specialist colleges, polytechnics or university departments, have to be initially approved by the accreditation council and then checked by universities, some of which, Mr Fallon said, are failing to maintain standards. He said he was not convinced that all universities were properly policing these

A critical independent report in 1985 said that the universities expected less of colleges than they did of themselves, relied on informal methods, and that standards varied too much. People checking the courses were being asked to do too much and had insufficient knowledge of the subject they were inspecting.

A code of practice was introduced by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, but it is not followed by every university. Mr Fallon said: "We will now check more thoroughly whether the academic standards of these courses are what they set out



Entrance for an exit: Dr Robert Runcie going into Canterbury Cathedral yesterday to take his last Christmas service before be retires as archbishop Dr Runcie's message, page 4

### Gorbachev hits snag in his bid for greater authority

Continued from page 1 the biggest in the Soviet Union, would resist sweeping new powers for Mr Gorbachev, "I will vote against because there is enough power in the hands of one man, even too much," he told journalists in the lobby of the Kremlin Hall of Congresses.

The debate on constitutional changes comes after demands by several deputies for Mr Gorbachev to take firm action to restore order in the face of increasing disregard for the central government's authority. Presidential decrees have been flouted by regions and republics demanding greater sovereignty, and deputies have accused Mr Gorbachev of indecision in tackling economic problems and ending inter-ethnic disputes.

proved yesterday, Gorbachev will have ultimate power, but there will be a greater role for the federation council advisory

group, which comprises representatives of all republics, in coordinating decisions.

Mr Gorbachev already has the authority to issue decrees on virtually every aspect of Soviet life, but the constitutional amendments will give him an unprecedented legal basis for his

His authority over the republics will also be largely conditioned by the outcome of a debate on a new union treaty, allowing greater republican autonomy in a renewed Soviet federation. On Monday, Mr Gorbachev pushed through two resolutions providing for nationwide referendums to be held on the principle of the Soviet Union remaining a single state and on the contentious subject of private

He also managed to gain overwhelming backing from the congress for the concept of the new union treaty, which must be

Baltic republics, seeking independence, have refused to take part in talks on the treaty and other republics have strong

Yesterday was the eighth day of a Congress that has seen Eduard Shevardnadze's dramatic resignation as foreign minister last week, and a hardline speech by the KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov accusing foreign agents of plotting against the

Mr Gorbachev had wanted Mr Shevardnadze to be his vicepresident, but the former foreign minister has said he would not accept the job if it were offered. Efforts continue, however, to find him a role in the government. "Shevardnadze is a man do a lot." Mr Gorbachev told reporters yesterday. "The question of where and how will continue to be discussed."

#### **Exiled king** returns to Romania

From Reuter

IN BUCHAREST THE exiled King Michael of Romania returned to his home-land yesterday after 43 years in the West and one year after the revolution which overthrew the Ceausescu regime. He arrived at Bucharest international airport in a private aircraft with his wife, the former Queen Ana, and one of their daughters, Princess Sophie.

King Michael, aged 69, travel-ling on a Danish passport, was going to Curtes de Arges, where members of his family are buried. "This is a private visit," said Princess Margareta, his eldest daughter, who arrived here last week. "My father thought it would have been wrong to come back for the anniversary of last year's events. It would have given a

Revolution's "scapegoat", page 7 Leading article, page 9

Another wet and windy day

political connotation to his visit.

# Blackouts after storms put paid to festive lunches

By NICHOLAS WATT

GALES and heavy rain left thousands of people without electricity yesterday and four people were injured when a church pinnacle collapsed in high winds onto a

congregation in Wiltshire.

The accident happened after the first hymn during the Christmas day morning service at St Mi-chael's and All Saints' Church in Kington St Michael, near Chippenham, Wiltshire. Four people were taken to Chippenham district hospital with minor injuries and a lump of masonry missed the priest by inches.

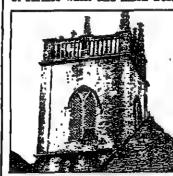
The morning Christmas service on independent television was interrupted when the London Weather Centre issued a severe weather alert after winds reached 106 mph on the Severn Bridge and 80 mph in the south. People in the Vale of Evesham,

Worcestershire, who lost their electricity supply in the blizzards two weeks ago were among the thousands cut off yesterday in Kent, Hampshire, Staffordshire, the West Country and Yorkshire. At South Littleton, near Evesham, children had to open their Christ-

mas presents by candlelight.
One villager said: "We struggled through the blizzard without power for two days - now this has to happen. We are all-electric. We don't know when we shall get Christmas dinner or whether it will be hot or cold."

High winds, reaching storm force ten, and driving rain swept over the West Country yesterday, leaving a trail of destruction. Roofs were blown off more than six houses in Devon and firemen with heat-seeking equipment fought to free an elderly couple trapped under a pile of bricks in their house when a strong wind ripped their roof. Cedric and Muriel Brooks, of Stoke Canon in Devon, were in bed when part of their roof was whipped up and tossed 70ft down the road.

Teams of emergency workers braved gale-force winds in Cornwall as high winds and driving rain swept over the county, brought down power lines and blacked out up to 300 people. Some roads in Devon lay under seven inches of rain as motorists were advised not to travel because of surface water and fallen trees.



The church tower after it lost its left pinnacle

Winds gusting up to 70mph flattened trees ripped away roofs and brought an empty house crashing down in Weymouth. Members of the Royal Family

were hit by a storm, including winds gusting at 55 mph, when they attended the Christmas day service at Sandringham parish church. The River Usk breached its

banks at Brecon, Powys, after torrential overnight rain in the mountains higher up stream. A 100-yard stretch of the town's promenade was under water. Flights in and out of Heathrow continued unaffected despite winds of more than 30 knots:

Passengers faced bumpy takeoffs and landings. The A76 Dumfries to Kilmar. nock in Scotland was closed for about an hour by flood waters at New Cumnock, Ayrshire. The River Nith also burst its banks at high tide in Whitesands.

Photographs, page 3

#### Helicopter in Atlantic rescue

Continued from page 1

The Sea King returned the injured man to Limerick. Earlier, with a different crew, it winched four men from a chemical tanker aground near Milford Haven,

The captain and eight other crew remained on board to try and save the 14,000 ton Swedish vessel Thuntank 9 which was in ballage Coastguards and the remaining crew were secured the ship to a buoy with the aid of two tugs and a lifeboat to prevent further pounding from the Force nine gale.

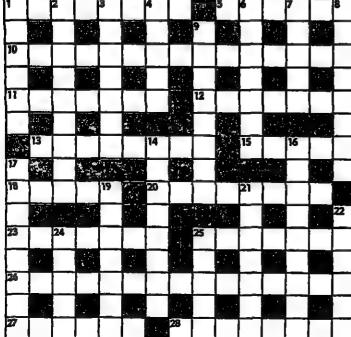
A spokesman for Milford Haven coastguard said: "There is not much chance of getting it back to sea with the winds blowing it into the shore. Our main task is to try and avoid any further damage."

Before setting off across the Atlantic Sergeant Stevens said: "Christmas lunch will be a little later than usual this year. This is the first time in three years that we have actually been called out on Christma Day, and then we get two rescues."

Twelve men were airlifted to safety from a disabled Danish oil rig supply vessel off Shetland and a supply boat sank after hitting a drilling rig off Great Yarmouth.

The coastguard and air-sea reslevels of staff at Christmas as on every day of the year, although a special Christmas lunch is prepared for those on duty.

#### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,486



26 It's the language speaker used (7.8).

28 Duke's house-dog (8).

movement's

6 What's left of very badly con-

8 More loving person making pro-

Like one of the king's men, regu-

Wreck in Adriatic port (5).

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14 Relating to the mouthpiece of

16 Weapon with chamber, empty when all the rounds are fin-

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ACROSS

I March past made Browning feel

like this (8). 5 Compensated when unemployed 10 Only accepting two names in order to make provision for mis-

11 There's always a way, he's found

12 Dancing, eg to a TV broadcast

13 Outstanding feature in Oxford Street area (4.4). 15 In which army section sees, say, enemy's van? (5).

18 Not a day job, love for a swain 20 Sailor, in disposition an idle fel-

low (8). 23 Acclaim in part of theatre -

singular approbation (7). 25 Large catch put, initially, in hold

SCHOOLS CABARET E R A I S RAISE NEWSAGENT E V C AGN X CUSTOMERS TAIPER

WORLI-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

PERSICO b. Persian luxury c. A bot desert wind 27 Offspring of queen and king, it appears, with little honour (6). FOSSOR

a. A grave-digger
b. An incisor couth
c. A Roman legionary ploneer PARAPENTING Embroidery double kemming Paracheting from a hill 1 100 in prison must be moved for c. Rounding sheep up for dipping

KAKOPYGE Cook chips with an edible plant Having unly buttocks c. Covered with spots Locked up with different keys

Answers on page 16, column 1 AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic. roadworks C London (within N & S Circs ) ...... 731 M-ways/reads M4-V1 ........... 732 M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T M-ways/roads Dartford T-4/23 M-ways/roads M23-44 M25 London Orbital only

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19 Shot approaching house (2-5). National traffic and roundworks 21 Captain of the B team in agony National motorways 22 Music in payan the man themat-24 Jack's call to stop a giant (5). 25 Live broadcast's central part ca-

North-east England pably presented (5). AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at Concise Crossword, page 11

ABROAD

WEATHER Another wer and WEATHER areas of England and Scotland may be dry at first, but rain will sweep across all parts during the morning. At the same time, brighter weather with blustery showers, perhaps thundery, will spread into western parts. Showers over Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland. Outlook: remaining windy, with bright periods and blustery showers. AROUND BRITAIN

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# The cheats must change for the sake of the game

By Stuart Jones FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

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nued from page I

de in White ands

PROFESSIONAL footballers, and particularly those in the first division, will today carry a responsibility which they have recently been reluctant to accept. On a festive occasion traditionally reserved for large crowds, they should publicly begin to raise standards of behaviour which, statistically, sank to the lowest depths in history last weekend.

The strictness of Fifa's edicts, and of the referees who must enforce them, will no doubt be used by managers and players to explain the total of 15 dismissals, which has left an appalling blot on the season's landscape. If so, as ususal, they are side-stepping

Instead of blaming others, they should examine their own conduct and ask whether they are acting in the pure and professional manner they demand of comparatively amateur officials. If they are honest, few can claim to be consistently paragons of virtue. Indeed many, albeit tech- evidently acceptable. nically but still overtly, are

The domestic game is not yet deeply infected with the infuriating dramatic excesses of Europe, such as the diving and especially the feigning of serious injury. But other equally irritating and unnecessary habits will be seen clubs?
today by spectators, which-

Association envisages a New

Year of increased sendings off,

he does not find evidence of

an unward trend in ill-disci-

After a League weekend

which saw 15 players dis-

missed, Kelly said that the

new initiative against denying

the opposition a goal by unfair

methods had played a consid-

"If you discard the so-called

sendings-off," he said. "It is fences.

total

pline in the English game.

care to visit

How often, for instance, is an arm raised for a throw-in in the full knowledge that it should rightly be awarded to the present captain, retreat the required ten yards, and either holding on to the ball or kicking it away?

Any team which deliberately pursues such perverse and childish courses of action deserves not one jot of sympathy. They should be assisting the man in charge, not obstructing him. His decisions, no matter how erroneous, must visibly be accepted, and ideally without reservation. Seldom is that the

To the credit of Brian Clough, Nottingham Forest have long been the most notable exception. Rarely are any of his representatives seen to argue or remonstrate with officials. At other clubs, where discipline is looser and attitudes less refined, the practice is common and, even worse,

Managers and players claim in their defence that their livelihoods are at stake. In spite of the inherent pressures and the emotions they generate, do they not have a duty to preserve the dignity and the honour of their chosen profession as well as of their

we should keep in proportion.
"I think that if the Inter-

national Board accepts the

handling be included as well,

season for some more

on new legislation

lower than last season for automatic sending-off of-

example by the national side during the World Cup. The the opposition? How often do Gary Lineker, have illustrated members of an offending team that success can be achieved react to a free kick by failing to without indulging in improper conduct.

In contrast, three of the leading clubs have since been viewed in a dimmer light. Arsenal and Manchester United brawled with each other, and two of Tottenham Hotspur's players were ordered off on Saturday.

The most potentially volatile fixture will be staged at Elland Road. It features supporters whose reputation was once notorious and teams which are in striking form. Leeds United, in climbing from eleventh to fifth, are unbeaten in their last nine matches. Chelsea, rising even more rapidly, have won all of their last five.

Passions are sure to be aroused by the sight of a prolific attack - Chelsea have averaged more than three goals a game over the last month - probing a sound defence - Leeds have conceded a goal every other game during the same period. Nowhere else is the balance likely

Liverpool should maintain their six-point lead by prolonging the miserable sequence of Queen's Park Rangers. Arsenal and Crystal Palace, both of whom are at Dismissals blamed home, can be expected to maintain their challenges. So should Tettenham, since Cov-entry City, whose inability to score is assuming chronic proportions, have yet to win under Terry Butcher. WHILE Graham Kelly, the obviously something which chief executive of the Pootball we should keep in proportion.

No one should be surprised. either, if Everton and Aston Villa, two toothless and sleeping giants, do not engage in a proposal from England that soporific goalless draw. Shef-field United have awoken at we could be on course next last but they, like everyone else, will scarcely relish playsendings-off too until the ing on the wall-to-wall carpet message gets across that it is at Kenilworth Road. against the laws and the spirit

They should also beware of "It is something we do not Laton Town's recent record. ant to see in our English. In their last two games, a total of three players have been sent The FA pressed Fifa, the off, eight have been booked world's governing body, for and another ten have received 'professional foul" — the red such tactics as deliberately stern lectures. May they, card for serious foul play - tripping an opponent when a above all, instantly rediscover which I have described as an agoal seemed probable or pull—the spirit of goodwill ing back a player who was about to shoot to be made



# Lamb ruled out of Test

From Alan Lee CRICKET CORRESPONDENT MELECURNE

ALLAN Lamb, the single positive factor in England's doleful batting this winter, was yesterday ruled out of the critical second Test match in Ground.

that his torn calf muscle was sided proportions. beyond repair for a five-day

fitness test in evident distress injury. This doubtless ex-and Chris Lewis reported plains his show of temper in while mystifyingly running further discomfort from his protracted back injury.

Lewis and Lamb were left out when England named an optimistic party of 14 late last night. Gower and Small, who has a thigh strain, were inround the Melbourne Cricket fident of playing in a match which England know they Lamb returned with a rueful must not lose if this series is shake of the head convinced not to assume farcically one-

beyond repair for a five-day Gower is understandably game. Within minutes, England's selection problems ing sustained an inhibiting Leading article, page 9 worsened still further as blow on the right wrist so soon play in this game."

Team news, page 21 David Gower cut short a after recovering from a thumb pretty distressed."

the nets yesterday morning, when he complained about the intrusive presence of television cameras as he tried to enough to keep him out of the knock up, and then openly exchanged views with the tour grievous blow for a team manager, Peter Lush, before

Gower spent the next halfhour wandering alone on the contemplating the prospect of missing a match crucial to his future in the England side. Lush said: "He is very keen to play in this game and he is

back to the team hotel in Ballarat after a three-hour innings, may yet be serious third Test in Sydney as well, a whose luck is presently as low as is possible to imagine.

AND TRANSCOPE TO IMBELIC.

AUSTRALIA (from): A R Border (captain),
G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, D M
Jones, S R Waugh, G R J Matthews, I A
Healy, M G Hughes, T M Aderman, B A
Reid, C G Racksmann, C J McDermott.

BNGLAND (from): G A Glooch (captain), M
A Atherton, W Larkins, D I Gower, R A
Smith, A J Stewar, J E Morrie, R C
Russell, P A J DeFreitze, G C Small, A R C
Fraser, D E Matcolm, P C R Tutnell, E E

Russell's aims, page 20

#### Sheffield report has grim message

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Liberal Democrats leader on Sheffield city council yesterday attacked the Labour majority for taking risks with municipal services in order to finance the 1991 World Student Games. Councillor David Chadwick was reacting to a progress report on the staging of the event, which will attract 6,000 competitors from 120 countries in 11 sports.

Anyone reading the report, which will be debated at an extraordinary meeting of the council on December 31, will understand why there are fears that the Games will lose more money than any event in the history of British sport.

Although Ray Gridley, the director of Games administration, still recommends that the council should not change its requirement that the final account "should produce a balance of expenditure against iocome", the uncertainty is

The report states: "The projected income is still and will remain a matter of managerial judgment and an element of risk will be associated with those judgments throughout the duration of the project." Chadwick com-mented: "The element of risk is in the order of £10 to £12 million of poll tax-payers' money in 1991. Labour poli-ticians in Sheffield town hall are willing to write 'blank cheques' by authorising several council officers to enter into contractual arrangements for the Games without producing any evidence as to how income will be generated."

It is estimated that the Games will cost a minimum of £17 million to be staged and the report added that the pledged income is only £5.57 million. The organisers hope that increased sponsorship, ticket sales and merchandising will make up most of the deficit

Both Pamela Gordon, the chief executive, and Malcolm Newman, the city treasurer admitted that there are at present "several significant uncertainties in relation to next year's overall budget".

Last June, the city council agreed to underwrite the Games and it seems certain that local services will be cut to pay for the biennial event because the city council cannot increase its poll tax in 1991 because it has been charge-capped by the

# Bookmakers blamed for crisis in racing

By RICHARD EVANS

BOOKMAKERS are largely responsible for the financial crisis facing British horse racing because their £200 million a year profits are made at the expense of the sport, according to a report to be submitted

The latest analysis of the racing industry, which includes a detailed breakdown prize money, which are forcing several owners and trainers out of racing, are directly linked to money made by the report has been prepared by Christopher Spencer-Phillips, an owner-breeder from Rolvenden in Kent.

Prize money in the United Kingdom (£41 million last year) amounts to 0.9 per cent of the betting turnover (£4.3 billion), compared to 3 per cent in France and Hong Kong, 5 per cent in Australia, 7 per cent in the United States

and 9.65 per cent in Canada. By contrast, the government's 8 per cent betting duty is not out of line with other racing

"The difference between the UK prize money level of 0.9 Total per cent of total money bet States and a healthy prize money percentage of 3 per cent, must go to the bookmakers. This with the UK," the survey says. Owners, breeders, trainers and make money".

The report is certain to provoke a furious response from the bookmakers' lobby, many punters. A copy is being home affairs select committee,

THE OVERALL PICTURE



"The bookmakers contribmust be the conclusion when ute nothing at all directly to comparing betting turnover prize money, other than a of bookmakers' earnings, comparing betting turnover prize money, other than a claims that the low levels of and percentage profit to sales small amount of voluntary figures for other countries sponsorship," the reort states. "Racing lays on this huge show from which the bookstable lads "are and have been makers turn over £4.3 billion big betting battalions. The for some time, subsidising and make profits of £200 racing, while bookmakers million a year, yet they contribute nothing back to the

Such a damning statement from the bookmakers' lobby, will be challenged by the but it will strike a chord with Bookmakers' Committee, which recently told the allforwarded to the Commons party parliamentary racing and bloodstock industries committee that estimated pay-

in 1989/90. The contributions racecourse admission fees. MPs were informed. and culling City data, Spencer-Phillips has produced a fas-

cinating snapshot of bookmakers turnover and profits which, if correct, undermines meagre profit claims made by bookies.

were made via sponsorship, Satellite Information Services, copyright fee to the Tote, and racecourse betting offices, By scouring annual reports

The report says that the recommendations include: financial breakdown shows 

Bookmakers being made to The report says that the recommendations include: contributing some realistic financial breakdown shows 

Bookmakers being made to percentage of their turnover that the Tote's market share of part with a small proportion of for their product."

to suggest that the level of profitability of one or two of the bigger companies is understated, due to the way of The setting up of allocating overheads to their bookmaking divisions. Brent body to run racing. Walker paying 12 times earnings for William Hill would also seem to confirm this

business "paying nothing di-

rectly to racing for their racing

"There is a strong argument

product."

report, which analysed the make it a viable leisure in-financial plight facing racing dustry for all who participate but did not offer a solution, Spencer-Phillips has proposed

Licensees Assocation's net which would go to racecourses profit claim of 2 to 3 per cent and prizemoney. for bookmakers is "clearly untrue" and that Ladbrokes have built a £2.5 billion Transferring the Tote with a

new, dynamic management team to racing's control. The Tote should increase its market share of the UK betting market, launch a series of large guaranteed pool beting scheme nationwide and be prepared to buy William Hill, if it comes up for sale. The setting up of a new, democratically elected racing

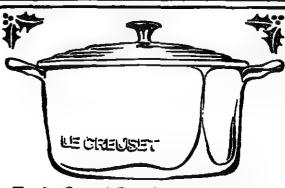
The report concludes: "The fundamentals of the industry in the UK can only be ew."

Unlike the recent Zetland money fund in Britain to

in it, and this can only come what needs to be done. His ment and the bookmakers

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By JOHN GOODBODY

LILLIAN Board died 20 years ago today from cancer. It was the cruellest and most poignant of

Only six months earlier, she had been running competitively. She was the European 800 metres champion, a world record holder in the 4x400 metres relay, and an Olympic silver medal winner.
She was aged 22 and with so

much to give the sport and so much living to do. In a sense, British women's athletics has never really replaced her because she has a unique aura about her, a vivacity,

and a simple charm. When she died, people in athletics COMMENT

felt that not only had they lost a champion, but also a friend. She was almost naive in her candour. There was no "side" to her. Born in Durban in 1948, she and

her twin sister, Irene, came to England with their Manchesterborn parents at the age of two. A member of the London Olympiades at the age of 12, she won the English schools junior long jump title twoand-a-half years later.

It was in 1967 that she became internationally renowned. As a 400 metres runner and racing in Los Angeles in a match between the United States and the British Commonwealth, she came through

the field to beat Judy Pollock, the world record holder, in 52.8sec, more than a second faster than she avoided the 400 metres because of had run before.

Lillian was the clear favourite for the Olympic title and a successor to her friend, Mary Rand, as what was termed the "golden girls" of British At the Mexico City Olympics, she

looked supreme in the heats of the 400 metres and in the final, sped away from the field. She seemed uncatchable. But the altitude and the early effort cost her dearly, and as she tired, Colette Besson, of France, caught her in the last few

strides to win by 0.07sec. She had to wait a year for her revenge in an important event. At

the presence of Besson and her compatriot, Nicole Duclos. The

4x400 metres gave the answer. On the last lap she took the baton two metres behind Besson, who was ten metres up at one stage However, gradually, Board whittled away at the lead and as the pair entered the home straight the Briton knew she had a chance. It was one of Britain's epic relays. The pair were given the same time but the camera gave Board and Britain the victory. She was voted sportswoman of the year and received an

A year later she was fighting cancer. The press was sworn to track, she said simply: "I won that secrecy and everyone respected the for Lillian."

wishes of her family and her boyfriend, David Emery, now sports editor of the Daily Express, who married Lillian's sister, Irene. When the news broke, people could not believe that the epitomy of health and fitness had been struck

down by such a disease. She struggled as courageously against cancer as she has struggled as an athlete. But on Boxing Day 1970, as people were leaving the football grounds of Britain, the bulletin came through that she was dead.

Eight months later, the world of athletics gathered in Helsinki for the 1971 European championships. Vera Nikolic, of Yugoslavia, a great rival of Board, was first in the 800 metres. When she came off the

# The abiding memory of one of Britain's greats

# Single-minded man with a mission

CHICKET CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

IN THE one-track world of Jack Russell, Christmas was cancelled this year. The only pertinent fact about yesterday, so far as England's wicketkeeper was concerned, was that it was the day before Boxing Day and the resumption of his life's

This morning, in the concrete bowl that Russell saw for the first time on Christmas Eve, Melbourne staged the start of the most traditional of all Ashes Test matches, the one which hosts a thousand hangovers and as many tall stories of festive high jinks.

Russell had no part in this. As usual, he was cocooned in his private world, a slave to his addiction. Christman? "It does not exist this year," he says seriously. To me, the Test match is all that matters, and I have prepared for it in the same way I always do." And so, yesterday, as the England players upheld tradition with a

ncy dress party after two hours' practice, Russell could not wait to be away from the celebrations and back in the solitude he seeks before every big game. He ate a light lunch and drank nothing but water. Then he retired to his room and a few hours' meditation before a very

Russell denies being an eccentric but is well aware of the view. "The lads keep calling me a top-drawer loony," he smiles, "I don't mind that. We are all made differently. It's just that my whole life is geared to cricket, even my marriage. Everything I do is thought through to help my game, but I don't call that eccentric, more like common

It is necessary only to have a conversation with Russell to appreciate a commitment to cricket which far exceeds the levels demanded of his breed. Within minutes, he will tell you of his intention to play 100 Tests, to score 5,000 runs for England and, said most urgently of all, "to catch everything, never dropping a ball". It is the look in his eyes and the tone of his Cotswold voice that insists this is no act. This is a man seriously booked and quite unabashed about saying



Private world: Rassell immerses himself in exercises yesterday during practice for the second Test match against Australia at Melbourne

"I have been switched on to this Test for days now, thinking about their batsmen and bowlers, working on my own readiness. I am wound up about it because it is a matter of life and death to me. The game is a drug to me and I really can't imagine being without it."

Fastidious and idiosyncratic, Russell could be a clone of Alan Knott. He says he has worked out his own way of doing things, but adds immediately: "It might be no accident that they are also Knotty's ways. He is an inspiration to me, and has been from my very early days, when I used to love playing against Kent so that I could seek him out for advice at the end of a

"He was the greatest of all time in my position, a wicketkeeping all-rounder, and both by his achievements and his advice he has given my career direction. I have got to try and beat him, you see. I want to be better than he was."

Knott (95 Tests, 4,389 runs and 269 dismissals) still has a comfortable lead on Russell (18 Tests, 716 runs and 55 dismissals) but he is not guarding it selfishly. Instead, he has become his successor's mentor and, three times already on this tour, he has telephoned Russell to pass on a tip or two from what he has seen on

'Mentally, he is brilliant," Russell says. "There are people on the

but when it comes to the mental approach of wicketkeeping I go to him. If I get down, as I did when I was out cheaply in Ballarat on Sunday, I just go back to my room and watch Knotty's video. It always gets my head straight."

There is, predictably, a lot of Knott in Russell - more, probably, than he is aware of himself. The turned-up collar, the dangling hand-kerchief, the buttoned-down cuffs and the faithful old sunhat are all obvious similarities. But in private, too, they hardly differ. Like Knott, Russell is meticulous with his equipment, adding individual. touches such as extra padding on his batting gloves. Like Knott, he is

Rice reinstated by referee

fussy to the point of fanatical over what he eats and drinks.

"Instead of eating cheese rolls in the dressing-room as I used to, I will have Weetabix, bananas, anything with plenty of carbohydrates for energy. Honey is another good thing - I often have a spoonful during the drinks break. And although I might have a pint of shandy at home, I will never drink alcohol before a game,

It did not, as the amiable Russell admitted, make for much of a Christmas, but on tour, in Melbourne, and with the nineteenth of his intended 100 Tests about to

twins. Mark (229 not out) and

Steve (216 not out), but on until they had established an Austra-lian partnership record for any

wicket, of 464 unbroken, in their match against Western Austra-lian in Perth at the weekend. Western Australian followed on

wickets in clearing the arrears, before Zoehrer and Macleay,

who both scored unbeater

centuries, salvaged a draw. Had New South Wales won, they would have drawn level with Western Australia at the top of

Queensland's prospects of qualifying for the Shield final look remote after they lost for

the second successive week, by 14 runs to Tasmania in Bris-

bane. It was only Queensland's third Shield defeat in Brisbane

Hampshire county cricket club

RUGBY UNION

the table.

in eight seasons.

Club matches

Aberevon v Noath Bath v Cilton

Record profit

# How Dalglish managed to fail just once

very year, before every Christmas, my mother says to her family the same thing: "Well, I'm not going to sit and watch television after lunch! I'm going to play a game!"

And every year she disentombs a shove-ha penny board that has led a blameless life underneath somebody's bed for 364 days and now suddenly finds itself centre stage, as if Fred Trueman had called it up for instant service on a revival of his 1970s television series, Indoor League.

The inept family of shovers gathers itself together and takes its collective aim. Coins skid nervously across the little board, guided on their way by palms whose slow, solicitously imprecise shoving style implies that they have been warming brandy glasses all day in-stead of practising their shove technique. Indeed, the general standard of play is so poor that a single game can ast the full 90 minutes, plus extra time, plus sudden-death penalty shove-out.

But shove ha'penny is for the family in its athletic mode. There are other games that it can play on Christmas Day, board games, games that do not involve standing up and containing the Christmas stomach. Every year, in sedentary accompaniment to the shove hapenny, there has been a different board game: from Mousetrap in the early 1970s, through Haunted House and Totopoly, all the way on towards the mature ripeness of Trivial Pursuit and the potential home-wrecker of 1989, Pictionary.

This year, in deference to my trade and to the modishness of football — and, more precisely, of Terry Venables – the game that has been and shall be played is, of course,

The publicity for The Manager implies that playing the game gives one the flavour of what it is like to be the boss of a football club. Win the game and you are Franz Beckenbauer, lose, and you will feel like David

The progress of the game is reasonably simple: one goes around a board, answering questions on either football, entertainment or general tina-like, one can win the game without getting a single question right), throwing two dice, one of which represents the home score, one the away (these determine how one moves). One is attempting to assemble a full team while hanging on to as many millions as possible. Managerial things happen on route, like playing the FA Cup, paying out vast sums of money for a new stand,

selling a player to Juventus
usual fourth-division The game must be played with those willing to pretend they are managers. At first, my father was aloof from such childishness: seated in his armchair while around him was ranged a proper card table, three uncomfortable straight-backed chairs

and three Cherie Lunghis

(wife, mother-in-law and

daughter), he would play,

LAURA THOMPSON

yes, but he would watch television at the same time (thus negating the whole purpose of the game). He perked up a bit on learning that one could adopt a real team to manage. "I'll have Liverpool," he said, his face momentarily creasing into Scottish crags. "Give me a red counter.

I became Alex Ferguson and my grandmother, hav-ing admired him from afar in Langan's Brasserie, momentarily submerged her own being into that of George Graham, but we both relinquished the red counter to the mighty Liverpool.

My mother, quietly and perhaps wisely, stuck with blue and Spurs. "You're going to be Tel, are you?"

It began to emerge that Venables exerted a certain fascination over my father. "Did Tel invent this game? Quite a clever man."
Tel sent 500 of these to

the Gulf did he? Hmm." "Whose signature's on that money? Tel's?"

ut the game really took a hold when it came to playing in the FA Cup. One auctions off the spare teams (there are eight in all) and makes the draw: the matches are then decided on the throw of the dice. Obviously, it was seen to be advantageous to buy at least one other team in order to have a chance of winning the Cup. But the spirit of makebelieve was dancing merrily inside my fither. Aren't you going to bid for another team?" "I've got Liverpool. I don't want that scrubby old

"It's not real, you know." Liverpool qualified, and qualified, and won the Cup. My father punched the air. "You tell Tel I stuck to Liverpool!"

There was no longer any talk of watching television at the same time. "I've nearly got a full team - I only want one or two scrubbers." Exorbitant deals began to be struck, "You can have my No. 10 if you give me a million pounds ... and No. 7.7 "You need No. 10, who had gone dangerously quiet. "I can soon buy another one - I'll play myself for a few Saturdays.

I'm a player-manager." Oh yes, The Manager had got a grip on us. I was in ecstasy because I had had an almost surreal run of luck in correctly answering football questions; my grandmother was buying elongated benchfuls of substitutes; my father was Kenny Dalglish. Which meant that the winner, with surreptitious stashes of millions, il Spurs players and a Jack Charlton face of silent confidence, had to be my mother. "If only she could hold on to money like that in real life," scoffed my be-

wildered father. How had Liverpool let it slip away? But there it was for the duration of The Manager, my mother had become Terry Venables; and Tel had pulled it off again.

### Sidhu takes India to easy victory

anbeaten century by Navjot Sidhu carried India, the defending champions, to an emphatic nine-wicket victory over Hang-ladesh in the opening match of the three-nation Asia Cup here

Sidhu hit 10 fours and three sixes in his 104, his second onecentury, for which he won man-of-the-match award. shared an opening stand of 121 with Raman as Bangladesh learnt a hard lesson in the art of pacing an innings in one-day cricket.

Bangladesh's innings revolved around a third-wicket partnership of 108 between Farruch Ahmed and Ather Ali Khan, both of whom were dropped early in their innings off Wasson, but the later bats-men could add only 34 in the remaining nine overs

Ashar Hossein & Asharuddin 5 Wessein — Prebhetar Nurul Abedin & Raju — Prebhetar Faruq Ahmed & Wasser & Raju — Ather All Khan & Raju — Aher All Khan & Kapil Dev — Akram Khan itw & Kapil Dev — Etem-ul-Haque not out.

FALL OF WICKETE: 1-8, 2-28, 3-138, 4-150, 5-168, 0-164. BOWLING: Kapil Dev 8-1-17-2; Prebinsion 10-2-28-1; Wasson 10-0-41-1; Matheries 10-2-39-0; Reju 10-0-27-2; Tendulian 2-0-

W V Ramen Bw b All Khan N S Sidhu not out S V Manipekar not out Extras (to 3, w 7, no 2) Total (1 wid, 36.5 overs)

# Total (6 wids, 60 overs)

EBU regulations criticised

#### OVERSEAS CRICKET By SIMON WILDE

The benefits of a third official being on hand to arbitrate on disputes, a proposal which the International Cricket Council meeting next month is expected to approve for all international matches, were demonstrated during a recent, unruly game in South Africa, where indepen-dent referees are already in use.

Transvasi won narrowly.

However, at 139 for four in later spologised to Rice for what had happened, although some innings, the match was in the balance when Clive Rice, the Transvaal captain, was bowled on 59 by McMillan off a no-ball. Rice did not see the umpire's signal and set off towards the

pavillion. At this, one of the Western Province fielders,

A full-blown dispute ensued, with Rice, having seen what had happened, harling to the ground first his helmet and then his bar. It was at this point that the off-field referes intervened. He overruled the umpire's decision The trouble occurred in a match at Johannesburg, where transvaal were chasing a target of 212 off 39 overs to beat he had not been sutempting a target of 212 off 39 overs to beat he had not been sutempting a captain two seasons ago, has a run. Rice went on to score 68.

In overred decision, one if South Africa are soon to the international and had Rice reinstated, quite An incorrect decision, one doubtless brought on, as so was a thrilling contest, which often, by the heat of the mo-rent, was thus averied. Seeff Western Province players at-tracted further criticism by

claiming that the laws did not

allow for a batsman to return once he had reached the

It is not the first time this season that Western Province,

pavillion, as Rice had.

Daryll Cuilinan, raced in with the ball to break the wicket. Backed by his captain, Lawrence

Seeff, he appealed for a run out. The umpire gave Rice out.

return to the international scene, the timing may prove perfect for one prodigy. Her-schelle Gibbs, aged 16, a col-oured from Cape Town of whom great things are forecast, has amounced himself by scor-ing 77 on his first-class debut for Western Province B against

Jackman, the former England

player, have been involved in breaches of discipline. Both Seeff, after a Currie Cup match, and Steve Jefferies, after the Nissan Shield semi-final, have been fined for showing dissent

towards umpires. Shortly after the Johannesburg fraces, Seeff's

season was brought to a pre-mature end when he was di-

agnosed as having a blood clot under his collarbone. Adrian Kuiper, who was dismissed as

New South Wales, the Shef-field Shield holders, paid the price for letting the Waugh

#### has announced a record profit of almost £71,000 for the year ended October 31. TODAY'S FIXTURES

Ettin v Aylesbury (11.0); Woking v Wokingham. First division: Aveley v Hitchin: Cheshan v Chalfort St Peter; Dorlung • Walton and Hirramus; Duhrlich v

HOCKEY: Cheshire v Lancashire (Liverpool Selton ground, 2.30).

Hockey Limposi.
ICE SIATINIO: Ecrement 17,00-18,00 and Eurosport 17,00-18,30: Sizes Canada, ALDO: Eurosport 08,00-08,30: European championships.
NOTORIVELING: Soreensport 16,30-17,00: Superbikes. 888 17,00-18,00: Main press.

ENCORER Screenport 18.00-20.00: Contentry challenge.
SPORTSDESK: 858 13.25, 18.00, 19.30, 12.00 and michight.
SURFARC Eurosport 18.30.17.00.
TENNIS: Eurosport 12.30-18.30; Michight Burksport Challenger Challen

#### RUGBY LEAGUE

#### League action prepares old rivals for cup tie

derby fixtures, as Warrington entertain Widnes in a preview of

The teams and the coaches share a dilemma. Whether to go all out for valuable league points avoid the risk of injury and the giving away of too many clues. No doubt, being professionals, both teams will go for the first option, but nevertheless it is hardly an ideal fixturing

At this derby match, as well the others in both divisions, a large crowd can be expected to swell flagging coffers and limp bank accounts,
At Knowsley Road, another

great traditional derby will take place between St Heleas and Wigan. Here again the at-mosphere will be slightly ab-normal, in that both clubs play under unexpected shadows. Wigan, the champions, have stumbled several times of late and trail behind the first di-

St Helens, for their part, are strictens, for their part, are having a disastrous spell, and a further defeat today against the ancient enemy will end their championship hopes and

THERE will be a strange air way, Gregory and Lydon about one of today's traditional through injury, but the front row forward, Skerrett, who broke his next Saturday's Regal Trophy aside this minor irritant and

The action starts earliest east of the Pennines with morning kick-offs as Leeds entertain Bradford Northern and Featherstone have their near neighbours Wakefield Trinity as

Hall will expect to retain their first division leadership by beating Castleford, who again showed their frailty after a run of good results by falling to Rochdale Hornets in the Regal

Trophy.
Hull Kingston Rovers also have a home fixture, and it will be interesting to see if Sheffield Eagles can follow up their win over St Helens with a surprise success at Craven Park. The other first division fixture brings one more traditional derby as Oldham play Rochdale Hornets in a survival match.

In the second division, Leigh and trail behind the first di-vision leaders. Hull and of Beardmore, are a reasonably Widos strong bet to end the immunity from defeat of Salford, the leaders, but Swinton are unlikely to be troubled by the visit of Trafford Borough. championship hopes and deepen the gloom enveloping Knowsley Road.

Wigan will be without Good
Cartisle travel to fellow Cumbrians Barrow, while Ryedsle-York may hit problems at mercurial Doncaster. United . the OP

9.00

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OVERSEAS RES

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#### THE YEAR is ending on a less than joyous note for members of the English Bridge Union's (EBU) law and ethics com-The most outspoken critic is EBU, and just as I am beginning the EBU's own vice-chairman, to detect some glimmering of Peter Stocken. In a letter to success, this committee — of members of the committee, he mittee, whose new regulations on the bidding conventions considered, most hadly written our efforts." and most difficult to understand

allowed in its tournaments have brought forth a shower of pamphlets to emanate from this committee " "The board of directors is But opaqueness of language conscious of a mixed reaction,"
the EBU chairman, Gerard
Faulkner, said. In fact, the
reaction appears to cover the may ultimately be less damaging than the complicated nature of some of the conventions them-selves. Many players are already being discouraged by the labyrinthine bidding methods narrow range from outright hostility to mere perplexity.
In 38 pages of small print, the that avid theorists are permitted to use when playing in EBU-licenced events. Now these playcommittee sets out regulations for conventions in all EBU-

licenced events. Not only rankers may be alienated futher. enjoyable game of duplicate, but also experienced tournament directors, seem equally baffled.

### IN BRIEF

Preston from February 12 to 24. champion from Port Talbot heads one of the strongest-ever fields, which includes former

and Richard Corsie. United States team competing in the Hopman Cup exhibition

RUGBY UNION: John Wells, the flanker, and Brian Smith, the fly half are out of Leicester's game against the Barbarians at Welford Road tomorrow. Their replacements are Adey Marriott

### bowls again Midland Bank return to bowls

ALEX Dampier, the Nottingham Panthers coach, decided recently that his team needed help in attack. So he released Rich Strachan, his import defenceman, and acquired Todd Bidner, an import forward.

The immediate result was a disappointing draw with Fife champions David Bryant, Jim Baker, Tony Allcock, Hugh Duff

Flyers, but the move paid off on TENNIS: David Wheaton has been named to replace Pete Durham Wasps 10-2 with Sampras, who is injured, in the Bidner scoring five times. The Wasps had their own five-goal scorer on Sunday in

but they still had to battle to hold on 7-5 against the improving Cleveland Bombers. Another improving team are Peterborough Pirates, who had wins over Whitley Warriors and Solihull Barons to move into

MOTOR RACING: Martin fourth place in the premier division of the Heineken drive the Brabham Yamaha Grand Prix car for next season, will open the Auto Sports diff Devils remained in second and third remained in second and third places, each gaining

which I am part - sends out a publication that undermines all

The matter is due for debate "For the last two years," with his partner, Andrew Robertster, Stocken added, "I have had the responsibility for trying to increase the membership of the control of the co

ICE HOCKEY

# pays a rich dividend

at what promises to be a lively meeting of the EBU council on January 9, when all 39 county associations may participate.

Meanwhile, ten of Britain's top pairs are to do battle at the Young Chelsea Club from Friday through Monday in final trials for the European than level, they may use any systems they like. The selectors have named Tony Fostester.

# Bank backs | Panthers' new signing

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

Poor Lee Valley Lions. Following a run of 13 defeats. ment structure last week. dispensing with the services of their coach, Wayne Evers. Ideally, a couple of morale-boosting wins would have been th perfect result. Unfortunately they had to face the teams lying second and third in the first division, Slough Jets and Bracknell Bees, Predictably, the Lions have now lost 15 in a row, nash. The man and the process of Lions have now lost 15 in a row,

1.0 urless stand Barclays League 

Second division Brighton v Bristol R (12.30). Bristol City v Portsmouth (11.30) .... lpswich v Middlesbrough... Milwall v Leicester (11.30)

Third division Birmingham v Brentford Bournemouth v Mansfie Bury v Leyton Orient....

Bury v Leyton Orient...
Cambridge v Trammere (11.30)...
Crewe v Preston...
Fulham v Bradford (12.0)...
Reading v Grinsby (12.0)...
Romernum v Cheeter...
Shrewsbury v Huddersfld...
Southend v Botton (12.0)...
Bloke v Betton (12.0)...
Bloke v Betton (12.0)...
Bloke v Betton (12.0)...

Aldershot v Darlington ....... Blackpool v Peterborough... Doncastur v Maldanne. Gifingham v Walsall..... Hardepool v Stockport... Rochdale v York ....... Scarborough v Halifax...... Scunthorps v Northampton

Torquey v Lincoln (11.0)...... Wrexham v Hereford (12.0)... GM Vauxhail Conference Bath v Yegyii... Colchester v Barnet (11.0). Gateshead v Barrow......

Northwich v Runcom Stafford R v Telford (11.0) Sutton Utd v Slough (11.30) Welling v Fisher Ath (11.30) Wycombe W v Cheltenham B and Q Scottish League Aberdeen v St Mirren (B.0). VAUDNALL LEAGUE: Premier disease:
Basingstoke v Erried (11.0); Brishop's Sur v Vilvenhoe; Carshaton v Kingstonsin; Daganham v Redindop Forest; Hayes v Harrow (11.15); Marlow v Statres (11.0); St Albarts v Hendon (11.30); Windsor and

Merthyr v Kudderminster...

and Newest, Lastherhead v Cove; Newbury v Hungerford: Ruisito Manor; Medico Vale, Southall v Michanderd.

MFE Loans: Leading: Pre-law or short Bangor City v Withon; Bishop Auddand v Goole (12.0); Chorley v Morecambe; Fleetwood v Horwich (11.0); Geineborough v Shepterd (11.30); Leat Tour v Frickey (12.0); Marine v Southport Mattock v Blodon; Mossley v Conylecter; Stalybridgs v Hyde. Plant division; Accrington Starley v Rossendale; Bridlington Town v Worksop; Carzon Ashters v Memown; Eumwood Town v Alfreston; Entey v Farsley Certic; Irlam v Warrington; Lencester v Writings Bay; Raddiffe Borough v Harrogate; Winstone; Leading v Heather v Warrington; Lencester v Westerford v Greened (11.30); Crawley v Wastdistone (11.30); Moor Green v VS Rugby (11.0); Rushden v Cambridge; Waserfoode v Farmborcugh (12.0); Molland divisions Alvertrurch v Raddisch; Biston v Winerball; Hedraustony v Raddisch; Biston v Winerball; Hedraustony v Party Nursation Borough v Bedworth; Spelding v Grantisen; Stouthern divisions Burnham v Farnham; Stouthern divisions Burnham v Farnham; Burry v Sudbury; Carlestoury v Margate: Correthians v Eriti and Belveden; Durestalle v Batdock; Folkenbure v Hythis; Gesport Borough v Reventioner, Victor v Margate; Winey v Buckingham; Yaba v Trowbridge.

Troubridge.

JEWBON BASTERN COUNTIES
LEADUS Frustian divisions Commune v
March; Cincton v Tiptries: Felintowe v
Scowmanian; Gorlesson v Greet Vermouth;
Halatased v Brantman; Alth Loweston v
Brantman; Alth Loweston v
Flockant; Newmanian; Alth Loweston v
Thetiond; Wasboch v Harverhill.
LEAGUS (IF HEILAND; Presider divisions
Demy Chy v Galwey United (3.30); Limerick v Cork Chy (2.15); St Patrick's
Aniesto v Shettrock Rowers (2.16);
Aniesto v Shettrock Rowers (2.16);
Aniesto v Shettrock Rowers (2.16);

RUGBY LEAGUE RUGBY LEAGUE

TOWNS: THE CHARPONDRIP: Pive division: Featherstone Walkefield (11.30); Hull v Castedord (3.18); Hull KR v Sheffield (3.15); Lead v Bradford (11.30); Odman v Rochdate (3.0); St Helens v Wigner (3.19); Warrington v Widnes (3.0); Bramley v Hunslet (3.30); Dewnbury v Batter (11.30); Doncsater v Prydeste-York (12.0); Huddersfield v Chorley (3.30); Kotjniey v Halfax (3.15); Leigh v Sationd (3.30); Switton v Traiford (3.0); Wife-haven v Workington (3.30).

Abanaco v Nasth
Bath v Cilton
Bridgend v Maesteg
Cardiff v Pontypridd (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Abertillery
Pytde v Preston G (2.15)
Gala v Meirosa (2.0)
Glamorgen W v Bristol
Gloucester v Lydney
Hawick v Jeo-Forest (2.0)
Lianelli v L Welsh
Ldn Irish v Old Millihili (2.30)
Moriey v Otley (2.15)
Moselsy v Coventry
News Gosfrith v Northern (2.15)
Newport v Newbridge (7.30)
Northampton v Nuneaton
Pontypool v Tredeger (2.30) 

SPORT ON TV SPORT ON TV

ATHERICS: ESS 13.20-15.00: The Sun
Use Great Ruse.
BAREBALL: Schempert 107.30-06.30: Mabritasgus from the United Stemes.
BAREBALL: Schempert 13.30-16.00
and 20.00-22.90: Heathern Wirel.
BOXROZ Eurosport 27.00-22.00.
CRICKET: Sky One 23.30 (Tuesday) 07.30-cm and 23.00-07.30 (tomorrow) and
BEC2 15.00-17.00: Second Test: Australia
v England.
EQUIPSTRIANISM: Eurosport 11.0012.00: Nation's Cup provious.
EUROSPORT HUMB: Essemport 18.3019.00 and 20.00-23.30.
FOOTSALL: BEC1 10.30-11.30: World
Cup highgins. Ses 20.00-22.00 and
00.30-02.30 (tomorrow): Scottish lengue.
GOLF: C4 11.30-12.35: Pro-celebrity
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GDLF: Ca 11.30-12.00
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ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 06.00-10.00,
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If Daley Thompson misses a medal in the world championships next year, will anyone have faith in his inevitable cry that he can regain his Olympic decathlon crown the year after? The defiance was heard after he lost his world title in 1987, and again in 1988, when he was fourth in the Olympics.

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

HOW long should we go on believing an ageing great sports-

man who keeps saying that he has one more big performance

left in him when the facts suggest

otherwise? How long before his words are interpreted as a des-

perate attempt to stay in the

There is nothing left of Thompson's empire, save his world record. But the empire was once so vast that we might return the favour for the pleasure he gave us by giving him the benefit of our doubt now. "If I win in

Test of time holds few terrors for Thompson Barcelona," he said just this

> Peter Matthews, editor of The International Track and Field Annual, is one who is keeping faith, retaining Thompson in the list of biographies for next year's annual because he is "likely to

> This year Thompson has lost his Commonwealth and Euro-pean titles to injury submissions. Perhaps he would have lost them anyway, but being tripped on the way to the ring was hard to take. More defiance: "If this knee gets anywhere near back to where it used to be, and the other boys keep performing as they are at the moment, I don't think I'll have a problem," he said last

Besotted by the decathlon, he once said he wished he could do one a week. Now, 15 months have passed since his last one, and he retired from that at halftime. Meanwhile, age has be-come his eleventh event. He will be 33 come the world championships. The average age of the top ten decathletes in the world this year is 25, and not one was born within four years of Thompson's

Not that his behaviour gives away his age; that banana smile still breaks out with each mischievous remark, no matter if it is at his own expense. Who was it, do you suppose, cried "decathlon" from the sidelines when Steve Cram, being interviewed for television, was asked to name the events in which Britain had not had much recent

Away from the public gaze - a sports hall in Frodsham is hardly the maker of Olympic dreams, but this man was trying — Thompson got down to some serious talking. "I have never felt any need to look back," he said.
"I am inspired by the things I

thought I have achieved the things I should have. If I win in Barcelona ... when I win in Barcelona . . . I should have won the Olympics four times."

In Seoul he was 182 points behind the gold medal winner, Christian Schenk, it was the difference, arguably, between good fortune and bad, his pole having snapped on his opening height, aggravating a thigh

"Can you . . . ?" The question went unfinished. "Yes, I can." Cannot" is a word Thompson learnt to do without from an early age, when his parents left him to fend for himself by packing him off to a boarding school at the age of seven. "I was a pain in the neck when I was little ... and I was always arguing with my mother. So they sent me to boarding school."

A trace of self-doubt is evident, though. "I don't think I

to. I think I am training with as much effort as I used to. I don't put as many hours in but my judgment is that what hours I do put in I use more wisely. The only thing I am having any trouble with is the long jump because I am having to relearn the skill. I haven't done it for two

The knee which required surgery for calcification and put him out of the European pionships no longer troubles him, he says. Attending hospital as a patient was hard for Thompson to accept. "I've never been one for doctors, and hospitals were for visiting other people," he said.

He is past the need for rehabilitation and into full flow. "I've been training seven days a week, four or five hours a day, and getting on the track three times a week. I must have a wicked chance in Tokyo because as I used to be. I don't think the event has moved on at all. The things I am doing in training seem to be going OK, but it is hard to assess because I have not had any competiton. I need a test

First, though, he must stack the logs. He has plans to go to the United States in February for training. He offers no clues as to when he might reappear in competition. "If I get to America on the Tuesday and there is a competition on the Wednesday and I decide to do it, then that is what I will do."

Frank Dick, his coach, says Thompson will be doing "a comprehensive programme in-doors and out". The word from Dick is that the athlete is "sprinting great stuff in training". But, as Thompson acknowledges, "competition is the test of anything". Tokyo and Barcelona await



Thompson: defiant

#### FOOTBALL

# United offer Robson the opportunity to stay at Old Trafford

BRYAN Robson has a part to play in Manchester United's future challenge for the championship, an honour they have not won since 1967. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, will offer Robson a new contract when his present deal runs out at the end of the

"Bryan has exceptional qualities and I'm looking to him as a natural leader to take us through the minefields we will encounter if we are to win the championship, which is my intention," Ferguson said. "We haven't discussed a new contract yet because it makes sense to see how he progresses see him back," Ferguson said

Arsenal v Derby County

Amenial v Derby County
Amenial asem certain to retain
Linghan in defence as replacement
for the imprisoned Adams. A
cracked rib will keep Horberd out
of Derby's midfield. Callaghan
will make his final appearance
before returning to Aston Villa
after three micrahs on Joan.

C Palace v Sunderland

Pelace should be unchanged.
Key, who was sent off on Sunday, is expected to keep his place in Sunderland's defence. Devenorimay return from a humstring injury to lead the attack.

Mountherd, who has geen ruled out of Villa's test three matches, will return to face his former club after suspension. Otney is still out with a knee injury.

Leeds United v Chelsea

racide on Sunday, is out of the Leeds defence. Giynn Snodin and Beglin are the rivats for his place. Monicou (namstring) is out of Chalma's defence. His place will go to either Johnsen or Lee.

Luton v Sheffield United

Haddock, the victim of Kav's

Everton v Aston Villa

First division

First division leaders

win at Wimbledon. He has after his Achilles injury. But fancy him, but I want him at

things are looking good and we will be talking soon." Robson, the former England captain, completed a League game for the first time this season on Saturday, after recovering from an Achilles tendon injury. "He came through it fine and it's great to

not at sweeper. Sharpe, irwin and Wallace are all in contantion two places. Norwich have added Smith, a teenager, to their squad but will probably be unchanged.

Nottin F v Wimbledon

Forest's goalkesping choice is between Sutton, who could make

between Sutton, who could make his first appearance of the season, and Crossley, who is low on confidence. In midfield Hodge could play his first game in almost a month effer recovering from a calf injury. Curie, sent off against Marchester United, keeps his place in Wimbledon's defence, hoping to justify his manager's assessment that he is hoperer than Wallier.

With two goals on Saturday after replacing Beardsley, Rosenthal has given Liverpool a tricky selection problem. Rangern' new defenders, Psacock and Tillson, will find the

bemer than Walker.

OPR v Liverpool

Second division

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

also been included in the squad to play Norwich City today at Old Trafford. "Bryan is 34 and naturally we must think about his future. A lot of people might

part in United's first league

Old Trafford and I have no intention of dumping him." One player who will not be staying on next season is Jim Steel, the Tranmere Rovers forward, who wishes to join the Merseyside Police force. Steel, aged 31, has made over 500 league and cup appearances and scored 127 goals during his career at Oldham

Athletic, Port Vale, Wrexham Harry McNally is to continue as the manager of Chester City after Ray Crofts, the chairman of the third division club, refused to accept his resignation. McNally offered to resign on Sunday when he met with Crofts to discuss an incident which occurred in a

McNally and Keith Bertschin, the club's veteran forward, were both admitted to hospital after what was described as a "drink-related incident". The two men were immediately docked

weeks' wages.
"I rejected Harry's offer of resignation because there was nothing to be gained from disposing of his servies," Crofts said.

John Byrne, the Brighton Southampton v Man City Cockerili may return for Southsmoton as Case (back injury) is doubtful. Rod Wallecs, who scored twice at Liverpool, may be retained in place of Rideout. forward, will spend the festive period in hospital for a cartilage operation and will be out of action for a month. The Republic of Ireland international, who returned to the West Ham U v Oldham A League in September in a £125.000 move from Le Havre, the French club, injured his right knee at Oldham on

relationship with Tapie began to manifest itself in a series of

public disagreements. Mar-seilles lost three of their first six

league matches as Beckenbauer

He changed the team's forma-tion and while he was an enthusiastic admirer of Waddle,

he seemed less enthusiastic

about Stojkovic, who in any case missed several games

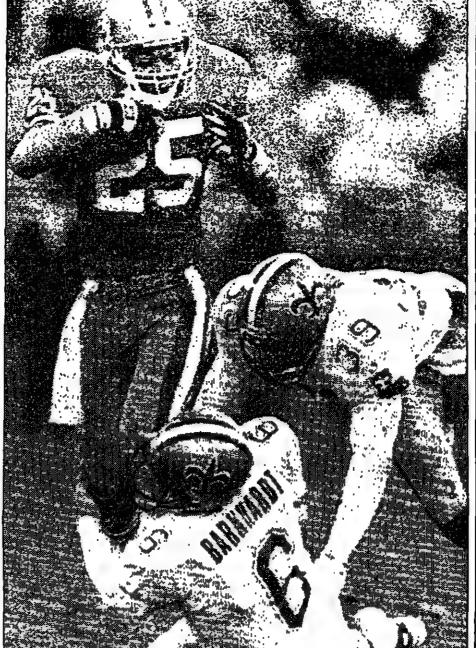
through a long-standing knee injury. But it says something about his players, that they never lost the top position in the league and progressed smoothly

to the quarter-finals of the European Cup.

beginning to make ominous noises and when, on December

Nevertheless Tapie was

AMERICAN FOOTBALL



No way through: Davis, of San Francisco, is tackled by Barnhardt, of New Orleans

### 49ers miss injured Montana

NEW York (Reuter) — The powerful San Francisco 49ers, who kept Joe Montana on the bench, suffered only their second defeat of the season as the casualty list of injured quarter-backs in the National Football League (NFL) grew on Sunday.

Montana, named by Sports Illustrated magazine last week as the Sportsman of the Year, and tout San Francisco's game against New Orleans because of an abdominal strain and the 49ers, with Steve Young in Montana's place, lost 13-10. Their record is now 13 wins and two defeats — still the joint best in the League.

Young ran for 102 yards and passed for 208 more for the defending NFL champions, but the Saints moved their record to seven wins and eight losses on Morten Andersen's 30-yard fourth-quarter field goal to stay in the power for the power for the power for the power for the defending NFL champions, but the Saints moved their record to seven wins and eight losses on Morten Andersen's 30-yard fourth-quarter field goal to stay in the power for the power for the power for the defending NFL champions, but the Saints moved their record to seven wins and eight losses on Morten Andersen's 30-yard fourth-quarter field goal to stay in the power for the power for the power for the defending NFL champions, but the Saints moved their record to seven wins and eight losses on Morten Andersen's 30-yard fourth-quarter field goal to stay in the power for the power for the power for the power for the defending NFL champions, but the Saints moved their record to seven wins and eight losses on Morten Andersen's 30-yard fourth-quarter field goal to stay in the power for the defending NFL champions, but the Saints moved their record to seven wins and eight losses on Morten Andersen's 30-yard fourth-quarter field goal to stay in the saint seven when the Oilers play in the saint seven when the play in the saint seven when the play in the saint seven when the oilers play in the saint seven when the play in the saint seven when the oilers play

fourth-quarter field goal to stay in the race for a spot in the play-

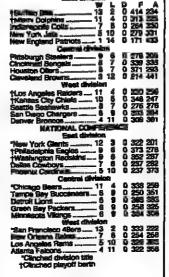
On a day when the play-off-bound Buffalo Bills, New York Giants and Chicago Bears won without their top quarterbacks, the Dallas Cowboys and Hous-ton Oilers suffered double

The Cowboys' Troy Aikman sustained a dislocated shoulder in the first quarter of a 17-3 defeat against Philadelphia Eagles which cost them a chance to

place him when the Oilers play AFC Central leaders, Pitts-

hurgh. The Steelers lead the division with a 9-6 record after a 35-0 rout of Cleveland. The Oilers can only win the division if they bear Pittsburgh and Cincinnati lose to lowly Cleveland.

Another quarterback to full was New England's rookie. Tommy Hodson, with a knee injury suffered in a 42-7 defeat by the New York Jets. It was the Patriots' thirteenth successive



### Bath will not take upwardly mobile neighbours lightly

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY UNION

to Cliften within four days may seem like moving from opera to music-hall, but there will be many in Bath who look forward to the traditional Boxing Day encounter. They will also look forward to the return to active service today of John Palmer, who has requested the opportunity to play against local oppo-nents with whom rugby links go back more than a century.

Palmer, now a member of the Bath coaching panel, is well aware of the number of former Bristolians who have helped in Clifton's upward climb, most of them his playing contemporaries. The exchange of rugby memories will add spice to the day, while among the forwards the presence of Gareth Chilcott, author and humourist, in the Bath front row will be a traditionally familier sight. ditionally familier sight.

The Bath mixture, in other respects, will be determined by availability, though Clifton, ly-ing second in the third division of the Courage Clubs Champ-ionship, have done quite enough this season not to be taken lightly. They are more than music-hall even if they cannot master the lilting lines of the Fijian side in full flow which scored 12 tries against Bath in

Jack Rowell, the Bath coach, was delighted with the French experience. It was always liable to end in sorrow given the absence of so many key players, but the exposure of so many members of Bath's next generation of players to overseas attitudes will help make them

FROM the Fijian national side at Bath University. Richard Hill, the England scrum half, jarred a thumb, which gave lan Saunders an appearance against Fiji until he broke a thumb and Hill, who is due to play for the Barbarians at Leicester tomor-

row, replaced him.
Sadly, John Wells, the England B flanker, will miss that
match: the cartilage injury sustained playing in the divisional championship has not improved sufficiently, so Adey Marriott will take his place in the Leicester back row. Jez Harris will play at stand-off half because Brian Smith, Leicester's first choice, leaves with Ireland for the Algarve tomorrow.

Elsewhere today the usua

neighbourly Christmas clashes occur, the men of the Llynfi Valley assemble at the Brewery Field to watch Bridgend and Maesteg: another English thirddivision club, Lydney, takes on first-division opponents at Gloucester, and Moseley seek to reverse last season's defeat againsi Coventry.

Moseley give Bob Massey his

debut at centre, Massey having joined from Nuneaton at the beginning of the season only to be afflicted with hamstring roblems. Massey has also had a spell at Coventry, and it was an outstanding game against Cov-entry's second XV last weekend that won him a place in Moseley's first XV today. Richard Kapa, the New Zealand wing is also introduced to the joys of this particular longstanding rivalry when Bob Barr, the flanker, will lead the side in his 250th game.

will help make them Moseley brace themselves. We were just short of thereafter, for a demanding two or three players to give string of games: they travel to further spine to the side, and if Lianelli on Saturday and play Fiji catch fire, very few can stay with them, Rowell said.

None the less, there were good displays from Martin Haag, the Cornish lock, and Gareth Adams, the former England Their knowledge of the M5 will School flanker, acre a coulest

### White returns for the Anglo-Scots

DEREK White, the Scotland No. 8, returns to the Anglo-Contain Scottshi, C Gray (Nottingham, Scots side to meet last season's Scottshi, D White (London Scottshi, I Statishi, London Scottshi, I Scottshi, I Scottshi, I Smith (Gloucester), Replacements: 8 inter-district championship at his property of Security (London Scottshi, I Smith (Gloucester), Replacements: 8 inter-district championship at Finlay Calder, the former Richmond on Saturday.

of this season after fracturing a cheek bone, made an impressive return to the top level last Saturday in Seville where Scotland A beat Spain 39-7. Jeremy Macklin, who has played No. 8 for the Anglos in their three matches this season, moves to the blind side at the expense of the promising London Scot, Niall McBain.

In the backs there are three changes: Richard Cramb, David Millard and Lindsay Renwick replace Shaun McGaughie, Stuart Jardine and Mark Carr.

MNIO SCOTA OF INSTITUTE CONTRIBUTE. A Donaldson (Currie): 6 Stating County), 8 Hemitton (String County), 8 Resemble, Capt, M Hall (Boroughmut), 8 Resemble, Capt, M Hall (Boroughmut), 8 Resemble, County), 8 Resemble, County, 8 Resemble, County,

ANOLO-SCOTEL O Altaniam (Newcash, University); N Gractes (London Scottish), D Caethie (Gloucester), R Ritacties (Moseley), L Remetal (London Scottish); Cressb (London Scottish), D Millerd (London Scottish); P Jones (Gloucester),

• Finlay Calder, the former White, who has missed most of this season after fracturing a they have made on improved the Co-optimists XV to play

Bank of Scotland border league matches this afternoon; the rent leaders, Melrose, away to Gala and Hawick v Jed-Forest.

#### **POOLS FORECAST**



#### Luton might give a full league debut in attract to Farrell as Dowle — who broke a barren spell in the 2-1 defeat at Totanham — was A hamstring injury may keep Ritchie out of Oldham's side. If he fulls a late fitness test, Palmer — the scorer of four goels in two games — will again deputies. Man United v Norwich Robson is expected to be retained by United though maybe More change at Marseilles

Even in a French season notable for financial scandals, arrests, wild accusations between club chairmen and even the threat of a players' strike, the 'goings-on at Marseilles this season have taken pride of

place.

The club started the season under the guidance of the highly respected young coach, Gerard Gili, who had steered them to the championship in each of his two years in charge. Under his care, Marseilles played 107 matches and lost only 13 but that was not enough for the ambitious club president, Berand Tapie.

He wanted Marseilles to become one of the European Dynamo Tirana, of Albania, 5-1 giants, a status, he believed, which was conferred by only one achievement: winning the European Cup. To this end, Tapie was prepared to spend lavishly.

Gili's part in these transfers

> team to the European Cup semi-finals last season, where they were rather unluckily beaten by Benfica. It was not enough. Enter Franz Beckenbauer, who had just led West Germany

was never clear but he took the

watched with apparent satisfac-tion as the team demolished

**OVERSEAS RESULTS** 

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Argentinos Juniors 1, Deportivo Mendiyu 0; Choco Foter 0, Deportivo Espeñol 2: Estudiantes 0, Girnnasis 0; Roserio Central 0, Ferro 1; River Pata 1, Velez Sersfield 2; Independiente 1, Lanuas 0; Union 4, Talieres 4; Huracan 0, Recing Cub 0; Pataeres 1, Boca 0; San Lorenzo 1, Newell's 1, Leading positione: 1, Newell's 0d Boys. 28pts (chempions); 2, River Patas 25; 3, Velez 24.

12. Bruges 2: Antwerp 2, Hoogstraten 0; Lommelse 0, Risong Machan 0 (Lommelse 0, Pataere 1, March 10 (Lommelse 0, Pataere 1, March 10 (Lommelse 1, March 10); 1, March 10 (Lommelse 1, March 10); 1, March 10; 1, March 10 BELQUAN CUP: Curie Busies Andertecht

O. Bruges 2: Antwerp 2: Hoogstratish 0;
Lorenniss 0, facong Machin 0 (Lorenniss 0;
Lorenniss 0;
Lorenniss 0, facong Machin 16;
Athreakou 15;
Athreakou 15;
Shebourre 2; Waterford 1; Dundek 2;
Twents Erischede 0, PSV Eindhoven 2;
Chreni 2: Volendem 0, Nigregeri 0;
Chren 3: Leading poetitions 1;
PSV Eindhoven, played 15; 25pts; 2; Ajax, 13,
22; 3; Gronkigen 15; 21.
FRENCH LEAGUE: Caen 0, Marresies 0;
Chren 3: Tissens 1;
Chren 2: Volendem 0;
Chren 3: Tissens 1;
Chren 3: Seint-Germain 0 (abenToulon 0, Parts Saint-Germain 0 (aben-

cioned after 40min when missile struck a ineeman). Postponed: Metz v Names, Nancy v Sochsur. Leading positions (after 21 metches): 1. Merselle, 31pts; 2. Aucerra, 27: 3. Monaco, 28. Crement (Indulting Applications C. Apolion 1. Dona Drame C, Aris 3, PAS journing C; Leading positions C; Cympiatos 1, OFI Cress 1: Penserhalics G; Christia C; PACK 1, AEK 1. Leading positions (siter 12 metches): Ohmpiatos 1, 18 pts; Paneshinelics (15. Paneshinelics 5.

ture seemed certain. And so it proved, with the announcement last weekend that Beckenbauer was to continue only as technical director, inne only as technical director, not as coach. Almost at once it was reported that he would end his two-year contract a year early. He drops the reins as coach, just where he picked them up, with the team four points clear at the top after a goalless draw with Caen on Sunday. His replacement? Who the but Goethals. It says something about the state of the game in France that the latest twist in the Marseilles saga tended to obscure an incident on Saturday night which would have dominated

9, Marseilles were beaten 4-0 by Auxerre, their closest chal-lengers, Beckenbauer's depar-BASKETBALL BASKETBALL

MATURIAL ARSOCIATION GRAY Extra
Color 12, Alexan Human 10t, Manni Huma
98, Utan Jazz 83; Los Angeles Cilopers 109,
Sacramento Kings 99; Portend Trail Biscors
122, Donner Hugoes 101; Los Angeles
102, Donner Hugoes 101; Los Angeles
104, Maria 114, Mannesous Thindrackes 94.

Palaceto Children
18 8 92 4
New York Knicks 12 13 A80 94;
New Jaresy Nets 10 16 A00 114;
Masmi Hest. 8 19 2 40 154;
Masmi Hest. 8 19 2 40 154;
Masmi Hest. 8 19 2 54
Chicago Bulis 17 9 554 1
Descrip Feltors 16 10 815 2
Alexan Human 11 16 A07 74;
Iridiare Pacers 11 16 A07 75;
Iridiare Pacers 10 16 33 9
WESTERNI CONFERENCE WESTERN CONFERENCE the headlines elsewhere. The first division match between Toulon and Paris Saint-Ger-main was abandoned after 40 minutes because a linesman was injured by a missile thrown

FOR THE RECORD ATHLETICS ICE HOCKEY MATIONAL LEAGUE (MRL): Buffato Babres
10, Cuestra: Abordiques 3; Federalphia Riyers
4, Montreal Caractiers 4 (07); Minnesons
Mortin Stem 6, Martinol Winsters 2; Mear 1074;
Rangers 5, Besson Brains 5 (07); New York
Resonars 4, Pitsikuspi Fedgalus 8 (07); New
Jersey Davids 4, Toronto Mapie Leats 2;
Edmonton Clera 4, Vinconaur Caractie 2;
Colongo (Biddysenka 3, Caracti Fed Whops 2) | CONFERENCE | Patidistics | P

WIMBLEDON VELAGE: Lauriston Paudesi (50 minutas): 1, 0 Ondoro (Kan) and A Reader (Craviley). 8 miles 420yd; 2, 6 Staines (Reignave Harriers) and M Watter (Harodas Wimbledon), 6:355; 3, G Adams (Belgrave Harriers) and M Cigla (Herudes Wimbledon), 6:250. TENNIS

ATP: Final residings: 1, 5 Echberg (Swo), 3,858 Datz, 2, 8 Beckier (Gert, 3,528 3, 1 Land) Cct, 2,581; 4, A Agensi (US), 2,396; 5, P Sampras (US), 1,896; 6, A Gómaz (Cct, 1,805; 7, T Manter (Austria), 1,854; 8, E Sánchaz (Sp.), 1,564; 9, G branchaz (US), 1,210; 14, G Perus-Pickian (Arg.), 1,191; 16, G Perus-Pickian (US), 1,210; 12, G Perus-Pickian (US), 1,210; 12, G Perus-Pickian (US), 1,562; 12, G Perus-Picki Xu Shaofa, the head coach of China's table tennis team - one of the country's most successful sports squads - has received permission to settle in France.

Southerspton, Bristol City, Newcastla, Watford, Bury, Reading, Aldershot, Hartispool, Dundee United, Brechin, Ratin.

• Vince Wright

4.27 2.03117 1-27

n prepares or cup tie

10.

"And matters have changed

dropping out and let's face it,

if you have no owners, you

On the same theme, Brooks

pointed out that three years ago not a stable was available

in the Lambourn area. "That's why Michael Bell went to

Horses that go swimming two

or three times a week must be

fitter than those that don't.

They are able to have the extra

work without putting too much strain on their legs."

Of the men that Brooks has worked with, the three that he

admires the most are Fred

Winter, John Francome and

Barry Allan, the blood-test expert. "As individuals, they have nothing in common, but they have all been outstanding

professionally. The governor's

chief asset is determination,

just like Peter Scudamore.

end up with no racing."

# I wo strings to the Brooks bow

two to beat in the King George," he said, "Celtic Shot tends to be tapped for speed and finds it difficult to hold and finds in the early stages. dinner. "Desert Orchid has those conditions."

on Kempton Park vesterday Brooks was leaning towards when Sabin Du Loir beat him the chances of Celtic Shot as over 2½ miles at Cheltenham. Uplands attempts to gain its But I made it the best perforfirst victory in this afternoon's mance of his life over that trip. King George VI Rank Chase The further Celtic Shot goes since Pendil won the Boxing the better and I am sure the Day spectacular for Fred Win- Gold Cup trip will suit him." ter for the second time in

ing Espy when the ground was help him. Over three miles on the firm side but the more they are going that bit slower rain that falls the better it will so he can become the one with be for Celtic Shot. Both horses the cruising speed. The danger were in tremendous shape for him and horses like him when they had their pipe- comes when they are run off openers this morning. John their feet early on. Their Francome was on Celtic Shot jumping has to hold them and Jo Winter on Espy. They together or they lose mocame up the gallops side by side and the riders reported that both horses were jumping out of their skins."

one most likely to upset near nine-year-old is reaching position, only 1 lib inferior.

his prime as a chaser. "Never mind the ratinga,
A quick and accurate the form book says he is

a backward Garrison Savan-2lb from Jenny Pitman's 20 lengths."

And as the rain lashed down his position in the early stages. "Everyone was disappointed

Celtic Shot's three wins this season have all been over "Two days ago I was fancy- three miles. "The longer trips

Brooks also mounts a spirited defence of what many would view as a flight of fancy Most observers would line in nominating Espy as a up behind Celtic Shot as the danger. Espy is ranked only 47th among Britain's chasers Desert Orchid's attempt to by Timeform, some 35lb bewin a fourth King George. A hind Desert Orchid, comchampion hurdler in 1988, the pared with Celtic Shot's fourth

umper, the dark bay was entitled to take his chance. He impressive in his first two beat Comandante first time wins this season, but did not out and was unlucky when please the critics when beating second on a return visit to Newbury, And the only time nah by seven lengths at he has run over three miles, at Haydock when in receipt of Ascot last season, he won by

A query about the trainer's "It was a bit disappointing, possible soundness of judge-but it was bad ground," ment was fielded with the Brooks said. "Celtic Shot had aplomb expected from a onequickened to go and win his time applicant for the post of

racing who is more pessimistic dice have been heavily loaded. always looking to the obvious.

A spectacular gallop last for the worse so dramatically recently. Owners can no longer afford an improfessible Over 21/2 miles, Celtic Shot than Tim Forster." a bomb with Wolfhangar on Peter Walwyn's Faringdon Road gallop. It is a stiff mile and a half and Espy finished on the bridle. They tell me Grundy was the last horse to do that."

In the past Espy's jumping has been suspect but, in Brooks's opinion, the criti-cism has been overdone. "He's jumped well in his last two races and seems to be full of confidence. There is no race in the world for which he should be 40-1."

Discussing the likely tactics of what is sure to be a cutthroat affair, the trainer went on: "They are going to go a right good gallop. Desert Orchid must be the one we have to beat. It would be very foolish to say he is not the horse he was.

And about the rest of the opposition. Toby Tobias must be the other danger. I saw The Fellow win in France and wasn't impressed. Nick The Brief must improve on his Haydock run and could go well. As for Sabin Du Loir, hopefully he will be running out of stamins in the last half

nomic climate, hard times he ahead for trainers. Despite his apparently laid-back attitude, the old Etonian is well aware of the score, having taken out a mortgage to buy Uplands from Fred Winter. "Ever since Lord Rosebery and his friends gave the

CHARLIE Brooks was in a race at the third last and you goalkeeper for Watford. "Yes, industry away 50 years ago, uses his brain all the time. fighting mood as he prepared can't keep stepping up the I am a good judge and what is when they turned down the Allan has such a logical, system to the control of t to tuck into his Christmas gallop all the way to the line in more I am the only man in idea of a Tote monopoly, the tematic brain and is not

"So much more is being learnt all the time that expert knowledge is doubling every longer afford an unprofitable ten years. A trainer, just like hobby so they are gradually any other professional, has got to keep looking for an edge. Life is so competitive that if you don't go forward, you don't stand still, you go

From an early age, Brooks was dreaming about racing. "When I went for an interview Newmarket. But now 50 per for Oxbridge, I'd hardly got cent would be on the market if over the threshold before the wanted. The recession works man said: "Mr Brooks, I hear all the way down. I've got an you think about nothing but owner who owes me so much racing. Our talk was soon money that if I don't get it, it over

will be my profit gone for the year. But he, in his turn, is also After joining the legendary Fred Winter as a stable lad, owed money by other people. Brooks became assistant when Oliver Sherwood left the yard "Competition in racing has to start training on his own never been keener. Martin Proces the man you just have to study. He's got such a forward-looking mind and pays so much attention to account. A reasonably successful career as an amateur jockey included a victory on Observe in the Christics detail. His horses are so fit. Foxhunters Challenge Cup. I'm sure having your own swimming pool is important.

Make or break time arrived run is the 1988 Champion Hurdle. The incapacitated Winter still held the licence but Brooks had been in charge for the whole season, "That win was pretty important and I like to think that many of the owners stayed with us because

remains Brooks's driving ambition. "At this stage of my life, it is very important that Pm a successful racehorse trainer. I can't do more than give it everything I've got. But the one thing I couldn't bear to be is a failure."



Rising stars: Charlie Brooks primes Celtic Shot for the King George VI Rank Chase

#### NEWTON ARROT

#### Selections By Mandarin

12.15 Tiber River. 12.45 William Anthony. 1.15 Miss Chafk. 1.45 Iveagh House. 2.15 Tipp Down. 2.45 Huntworth. 3.15 Patrol Leader.

12.15 SOUTH-WEST RACECOURSES SERIES NOVICES CHASE (DIV E amateurs: round V: 22,476:

P Schotlett (7. 8 250) THER RIVER 12 (8.87.0) C Brooks 6-11-6 J Durkan (8. 8 6/17 PRETTY PARTICES 18 M Missian 6-11-1

11-10 Bonny HB Lmi, 5-4 Tiber Pilver, 11-2 Military Bend, 8-1 Levent Way, 14-1 Borrenza Rebel. 20-1 others. 12.45 SOUTH-WEST RACECOURSES SERIES NOVICES CHASE (DIV II: amateurs: round V:

2113 HELARION 20 (D.SELF.S) J Edwards 6-19-0 R Daviss (7) /911 WILLIAM ANTHONY 4 (2.5) M Ppc 8-18-0.... A Walter PPP DANSSH PAIPER 600 8 Scrives 6-11-6.... B Footer (7) (PSS) HOLY SHOW 12 Mins 1 Frames (9-15-6...

4 OPSS HOLY SHOW 12 MISS L Bower 9-11-6 ..... C Bonner (7)
5 34-U ROYAL HERO 20 (5) P Leach 9-11-6 ...... A Ferrant (7)
6 6-P THE NATIONS WAY 26 G Ham 9-11-6 ...... R Derica (7)
7 UPF- CAPE MANTON 312 R Holder 9-11-1 ..... R Whiting (7)
6 (92-COUNTRY DIARY 259 G Building 7-11-1 .... B Middles (8)
7-4 William Anthony, 5-2 Hillerion, 6-1 Country Diary, 6-1
Royal Hero, 10-1 Holy Show, 14-1 Cape Menton, 20-1 others. 1.16 CHRISTMAS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

1 1-11-9 -- COLD THE FOR IT CLOS -- 6-11-10

9. POS MCLIME WALE 23 (B) J Geler 4-11-6... B Derrough (S) 4-60 TRICAINS SING 19 (F.G) P Frost 6-11-9... C Hopwood 4 5643 RAMROD 12 (B.D.P) R Hodges 5-11-2 T Thempson (7) 6 /IP- POREATURE 454 (CD.P) J Booley 5-11-1..... M Booley 6 200- INCLIAN SWING 222 Mrs S Williams 5-11-0 7 F-25, 196H LAWS 25 Wilson Price 6-11-0 A Price 8-235 DOUBLE HANDFULL 25 J Richard 4-10-7 P Design 9-104- BES CHALK 148F (D.) N FPICe 4-10-6 D Richards (7) 10 -640 EARLES 23 R Brezington 5-10-6 M Bowley 100 DECCAN PRINCE 235 R Models 6-10-4 W Indian 12 043- CRIENTAL DREAM 254 F Yarding 6-10-4

18 40/P AFVECAN OPERA 125 F Yarday 8-10-4
18 40/P AFVECAN OPERA 125 T J TON 6-10-1 G Upton (3)
18 DF-5 CREP MOTE 4 J Ou 6-10-0 R Greene (7)
18 DF-5 CREP MOTE 4 J Ou 6-10-0 N Coleman
18 0440 J CRED CO MARGIC 27 A Justic 5-10-0 N TROOMS (7)
17 - PSF LATERAL 25 J Engley 6-10-0 N TROOMS (7)
18 06-5 REMARKIN (ANCASTER 55 T Hailer) 6-10-0 A Webb

3-1 Miles Chalk, 5-1 Remrod, 6-1 Holme Hale, 7-1 others. LAS THURLESTONE HOTEL MANDICAP MURDLE

(£2,905: 2m 150yd) (14) 1 0-02 RE-RELEASE 11 (0.5) M Plos 5-12-0 ...... We A Wester 2 19-5 ALXINDR REX 18 (0.5) M Francis 5-11-10 3 /60- MICHT MOVE 250 (CD,O,S) M Pipe 7-11-6

Selections

By Mandarin 12.45 Leven Baby. 1.15 Miami Bear, 1.45 Un-Explained. 2.15 Decent Man. 2.45 Norton Warrior, 3.15 Skolern.

1245 MORDON NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE

MASTER OF THE HOUSE SET IN Hammond 4-11-7

2 3050 SVELTISSIMA 27 (3) G Okrovid 4-11-7 R Gentley (7)
3 1000 DALMORE 16 (B,CD,F,G) F Watson 4-11-6 R Gentley
3 1000 DALMORE 16 (B,CD,F,G) F Watson 4-11-6 M Rise
5 00 TOUCHUM PRIDE 15 A Harrison 4-11-2 A J Calier
6 3P FLORET 20 (2) R Studber 3-10-13 B Miles (7)
7 RISH FLASHER 24CF J Jefferson 3-10-13 A Orinsy
9 8014 SAMEAU 22 (3) K Morgan 3-10-12 F Mileston (7)
10 SONNIABEND M W Easier by 3-10-12 C Ryan (7)
11 SANCLAIM PRINCE 166F J Parkes 3-10-8 N Smith (5)
12 61 ELIZ BELL RESCANDE IF I Marvin 3-10-7 SINCLAIM PRINCE 166F J Parkes 3-10-8 N P Smith (5)
13 63 PIC NEGRE 25 S Norton 3-10-7 Mr D Franch
15 0316 LEVEN BABY 35 (CD,3) MrS G Reveley 3-10-6 R Hodge (7)
16 B0P2 AMAZAKÉ 15 (B) C Dwyer 3-10-6 P R Hodge (7)
DAKEN BROOK 136F Mrs G Powright 3-10-4 P A Ferred
5-2 Leven Baby, 4-1 Karindabli, Amezales, 6-1 others.

5-2 Leven Baby, 4-1 Kenndabil, Amazaka, 6-1 Others. 1.15 JAMES FLETCHER MARQUEES MANDICAP

UNDIE (E1:30% E1:37) (--) 1 4961 TRARSS 4 (0,0) W Berdey 5-12-5 (Sec) J Callegher (3)

2 /05 SEAN BOY 25 (CD.F.G) M H Easterby 12-11-10

5 TESO CONTACT KELVIN OF FOLDUN IN BYCKER IN

2 /05 SEAN BOT 25 (CD.F.C) M N Estately 12-11-10
1. Michaey
3 P028 VALLANT DASH 15 (F) S Kattewell 4-11-8 C Dulon
4 3111 MAAM BEAR 4 (LG.) J Berry 4-11-8 (Ser) C Williams
5 1-22 GAALDWAY RABDER 8 (B.BF.S) Denys Smith 8-10-13
D COMMAND
IN STREET OF COMMAND
IN STREET OF COMMAND
IN STREET AND COMMAND
IN STREET

Rechel Holden (7)
11 430- MAW SROON 257 (5) Miss A Akkin 7-10-0 R Hodge (7)
12 0-06 ALL OVER THE WORLD 71 (7) J Fort 6-10-0

11-4 Migmi Beer, 4-1 Galloway Raider, 9-2 Thersis, 6-1 Mino, 8-1 Mister Moody, 10-1 First Lord, 12-1 others.

N Smith (5)

Goling: good

(£1,368: 2m) (17 runners)

HURDLE (£1,964: 2m 4f) (15)

4 -315 STAR SEASON 36 (DUBY,CLS) R Holder 5-11-2

SEDGEFIELD

#### 5 NO. MATERIALISM SC (D. R.) B Bland F-17-C., M (On 4 -184 OLVESTON 29 (CD.F.O.M.) D Buron 6-10-6 T THE REACHEST GLASS MELT CHEST 9 AND BELTAKE THE SMITH SA (D.M.F.F.A) N DUM 10 2351 MAATEL 15 (0,000 N Michel 7-10-0 11 - 1000 NEYNES 27 ELFAST T Holes 10-10-0 12 - 291 T HOUSE 17 (0,05) No 2 Fisce 5-10-0 13 20-P LASTING MEMORY 28 (22,07) R Front +10-0

14 -620 CURSOUS FEELING IS (EXP) 1 Books 4-10-5

2.15 ALETON HALL HOVICES HANDICAP HUR-DLE (\$2,220: 2m 5f 110yd) (16)

-155 CACHE PLEIR 7 F.S. M. Pro 4-154 for F manufar (7)
-735 EAST FRIER 30 (F) G Backing 5-11-7 ... to a manufacture of the Country of the Cou

ANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL LIMITED HANDI-CAP CHASE (£3,854: 3m 2l 100yd) (8)

1 -110 YOM CSADEK 22 (D,E) Miss H Kright 6-11-10 2 2012 SEAGRAN 19 (CD,F,G,IS) D Berose 10-11-0 B 3212 HUNTWORTH 20 (CO,F,Q,S) M Pipe 10-11-5 

6 PU-3 FAM CHILD 38 (D.F.S.S) D Manny Smith 10-10-13 7 /1-U LONGRIVER LABY 11 (C.C.S) & Holder 7-10-0 N Mans (3) 8 /S-P PADDY BUCK 4 (F/S) J Honeytest 10-10-0....

5-2 Von Credek, 11-4 Huntworth, 3-1 Seagram, 9-2 Longriver Lady, 8-1 Last House, 16-1 others. 3.15 EEF HOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: \$2,626; 2m

2-1 Patrol Leader, 5-2 Capital Punishment, 5-1 Postic Gen 10-1 Man Prom Mars, 14-1 others.

1.45 RENT ROLL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (\$2,198:

1 1413 UNICHPLANED 15 (SF,CO,O,S) G MICOTO 7-12-0 2 FS-0 JODY'S NOY 15 (R,CD,F,G,S) R Subary S-11-13 \$ 2501 YALENTINGS JOY 19 (0.F.O.5) & Optoyd 11-10-10
4 51F2 J.J. Jimmy 6 (CD.F.O.5) & Ellison 8-10-10 P. Marriny
5 2673 PEACEWORK 42 (D.F. Mrs G Resulty 6-10-0 B Storny
5-4 J.J. Jimmy 9 4 Horn Telescope 10-0 B Storny

2.15 GUS CARTER NOVICES CHASE (22,356: 2m

5-4 J J Jimmy, 2-1 Unex-Plained, 3-1 Valentinos Joy, 7-1 scenorik, 20-1 Judy's Boy.

2 - dez DECENT MAN 22 (8) P Seasonot 7-11-8
P Wagned (7)
2 - dez DECENT MAN 22 (8) P Seasonot 7-11-6
P A S 11 06-8 VALIANT STAR 12 (6) M Humanoid 4-10-8 J Callegher (2)

11-10 Decent Man, 7-2 Fighting Finish, 5-1 Mr Thorse, 8-1 Icoho, 13-1 Prince Core, Mareir, 20-1 others. 2.45 BRADBURY HANDICAP CHASE (\$2.427: 3m

13-8 The Mettolin, 15-8 Norton Warlor, 7-2 Bonnie Artes. 11-2 High Edge Grey, 25-1 Cool Brew. 3.15 ST STEPHEN HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,749:

2m) (11)

7 F/6 SALACITY 23 (0.4) G Moore 5-10-1 \_\_ J Calleghee (5) 8 4914 FULL MONTY 26 (C.D.F) Denys Smith 4-10-0

9 -162 WINDWARD AROUS 16 (D,F) O Yopkey 4-10-0 Filterings (F) 10 -300 OUTSTANDING BALL 32 (CD,F) J Julius (F) 4-10-0 11 - No. 1002 County des (D.M. II Effect 8-10-0... Il Michigay (?)

9-4 Whitwood, 11-4 Houghton, 6-1 Salacity, 7-1 others.

Gienen (Georgia) Selections By Mandarin mhead, 1.0 Wide Boy, 1.30 Singlesole, onis, 2.30 Buddy Holly, 3.0 Muirfield

Goings good to soft 12-30 ST IVO MOVICES HERIDLE (TIV & 22,010: 2m 1 9-16 AFTER THE HUNGER 22 (6) (7 Sharwood 5-11-7

2m 200yd) (2) 1-4 Price Boy, 7-2 Toolwills.

1.30 ET IVO NOVICES HURDLE (DIV IL E2.010: 2m

#### MARKETRASEN

#### Selections

By Mandmin 12.45 Laurie-O. 1.15 Some Do Not. 1.45 They All Furgot Me. 2.15 West Ender. 2.45 Vulvory's Clown. 3.15 Skeletor.

Going: good to soft (soft patches) 12.45 URUCE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY CHASE (£2,678: 3m) (8 runners)

6 PLANCELOGIEY FORMEST 200 O Britisha 8-11-6

7 PSSS REMEMBER JOSH 35 R This 8-11-8... Nr H Wilson (7) 8 PS-P LYNGBROEM 12 M Chapman 4-19-5... W Wordholm 45 Laurie-O. 3-1 Richarder Former, 8-7 in The Breath, 18-scender Jose, 12-1 Spotsmann's Dream, 18-1 others. 1.15 RACING POST NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier:

4 SP GOOD APTERNIOON SEE (2) R Tale 10-11-2

See Finds (7)

5 -725 MEY RAWLEY 18 (2) Mrs Q Reveloy 5-11-2 P Horse

6 (2) PRICEON SELAND 485 P STOCKEY 5-11-2 C Kalled

7 Finds SOME DO NOT SEE Fit in Previous 6-11-2 D Symm

8 00-0 STORMETS MAD 12 J Leigh 6-11-2 W Wordington

9 823- TORK HIPERAL 278 S Gev 8-11-2 Mr P Ges

10 W WORTINGHAM VALE SF M Chapters 7-10-11

W Workington

4-6 Some Do Not. 9-2 Hey Randay, 8-1 Yes Imperial \$-1 ractive, 10-1 Crafty Copper, 14-1 others. 1.45 NOEL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (\$1,772

1 315 ADELINE LYNW 12 (BF.S) N Thiday 4-11-10 III Braman
2 9159 THEY ALL FUNDOT ME 5 (3) T Casey 3-11-1 P Novem
3 P-70 ARRELS 38 R PROCOCK 4-10-12
4 1P00 JACOUELINE'S GLEN ZZ (F) J Parlers 4-10-11
III: 3 Charles (7)
5 1256 LAPRACIO SF (CALF) A Charmen 2-19-10 D Dymn
4-10-2 EVENEND STARLEY ME (V) ARRE 6 Trans 4-10-2
7 3065 LOVELY WONGA 15 (DJF) D Wilson 4-10-7 JA Hende
8 400 VALLAHT VICAN 15 (B) C Thomas 3-10-6
9 10-P BREEZY SALLON 29 (V) R Thompson 4-10-4
8 Deline (f)

10 R340 BCMO ONE 18 K McQualey 4-10-4 B Debox (7)
11 PFOP SHAMPAYAR 12 (8) 8 Cereford 4-10-1 C Demois (8)
12 DOM PHARLY REZ 25 J Wernerget 3-10-1 J J Geleo
13 SEE AFTED GENERITY OF B Reference 5-10-0 T Jeres
14 OLIC PREZ COLD 21 W PRITE 2-10-0 B Carrier (7)
15 ROJO MY LINDIANNE 19 J Doole 3-10-0 R Montey
15 Adding Lwm. 2-2 The Aff Emilianne (7)

9-4 Adeline Lyon, 7-2 They Ali Forgot Me, 11-2 Lalidello, 8-1 Evening States, 10-1 Fire Gold, 12-1 others. 2.15 KILVINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (23,368: 2m 6f) (13) 1 105- HAL STREET MA CLYAN Sweet Pages at 5-12-0

2 47 CREEN STEPS TO CLUCAL Characteries 113 11 Characteries 113 113 Characteri 4 16- SPANC OF PEACE SSE FAIR P Booking 5-10-4 C Hobis 

94 STORYMOOK 21 N Nenderson 5-11-0. Simily Scotes -976 TOP VILLAN S7 A Turnel 4-11-0. Simily Scotes By CHATTY CORMER 57 C Dropes 10-0 C Demonsy (7) 67 RUBNIKA 36 R Hollmehand 4-10-8.... Gery Lynne (3) 14 Montagnand, 4-1 Detro Carant S. 4 3-1 Montagnard, 4-1 Extra Grand, 5-1 Singlescie, 7-1 Mee-H, 5-1 De Proixodis, 10-1 Pythem Sulty, 12-1 others. ZJI EEP CHATTERIS INTERMEDIATE HANDICAP CHASE (82,384: 2m 4f) (6)

1 HZ PRINTERS 11 (D.W.F.G.R.W.Hen) S Price SEECHMONIT LAD 7 C Triedine 6-12-0... D Poole 77 3 -Pric COCCE TORIC TI (F.C.D.) T Etherington 7-11-3 II Royal 4 -OPT EARL SCHAME 29 (CD.D) F Marphy 7-10-3... D Marphy 5 - TITLE HEARDON SOUTH F.S. J. Eshercia 6-10-3... Sed prif 5 FEED FORCED HEARDH 14 (G) G Besting 0-10-9

2.30 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (22.618:

6 Sept Man Constant and (0.5) K Hayuna 6-17-2

4 PS-4 ON THE TWEET 11 (CO.Q.(1) F Murphy 6-10-12 5 2936 ABERCY 25 (CD.F) M From 11-10-10 \_\_\_ J McLaughin 6 CDS PERTA DANCE 15 (D.F) J Linjo 7-10-0 Geny Lyson CD 7 0-21 ABERCY HONLY 15 (D.F) J Linjo 7-10-0 Geny Lyson CD 8 Smith Section

19 68- All HELLO 286 (F) J Bostock 9-10-0 ... 5-2 Buddy Hoty, 5-2 On The Twist, 5-1 Aberry, 6-1 Flests soc, 7-1 John O'Dec, 8-1 Ickworth, 12-1 others.

2.0 OUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,118; 2m 100yd)

1 10-6 MONRYS MESTALE 27 (ELF, A, S) R Las S-11-12 S South Books 2 /94- MESTY LAW 259 (C,S) M Euric S-11-2, D Expens (S) 3 575- MAJOR ESTORT 21 (LF,C) G Exchyl S-11-3 Expens (Spens 4 6864 19H9'A SHART 21 (CD,I') K Morgan 5-10-11 5 -422 MARSTELD VALLAGE 12 (BF,C) S Dow 4-10-0 ... 6 4-21 CLOS DO BOS 12 (D,C) No N Mecadiny 4-10-4

7 /4-0 PLUTTER MONEY 4 (0,0,0) Mise Q Dollar 6-10-4 8 10-4 MORTHERN BARRY 19 (D.F) J McCommonle 6-10-2 9 14-P IMMORTAL INSH 12 (0,F) D Gendolfo 5-10-0

9 14-P IMMORFAL BRIN 12 (0,F) D Gendon's 5-70-0
W Hamphrine
10 P1-3 HOWAL 12 (0,G) J Best 5-10-0 Imms 5 improved
11 P- YOMITER MAN 321 (0,E) 5 Creedon's 5-10-0
J McLeografia 11-4 Multifield Village, 7-2 Northern Barry, 9-2 Major Etiort,

13 May 2017 Call 417 (FA) M Chapman 7-10-0 W Worshippins 11-10 HM Street, 7-2 Taberna Lord, 7-1 West Ender, 8-1 Per Senior, Green Steps, 12-1 Fifth Attempt, 14-1 others.

LAS C F RAWLINSON FINE DRAINAGE HAND-1 -211 VALIDITY'S CLOSE IS (C.F.Q.S) D Berner 12-12-0 2 MG BANDURT MCK SHI SHI M W Facility 6-11-8

8 -3F1 DEADLINE 27 (0,5) J Leigh 7-10-0 D Byz 10-11 Vultury's Clown, 5-4 Sendant Jack, 7-1 Deadline. 3.15 MISTLETOE MOVICES HURDLE (£2,539: 2m

B 219- MAPPYORTS 294-Memory Plazaredd 5-10-10 R Marriny
6 PLESLEY 253 Jimmy Plazaredd 5-10-10 D Byrne
7 RESLEY 253 Jimmy Plazaredd 5-10-10 W Desen (7)
8 RASTER BUSTER 97 C Swiss 5-10-10 Bir JR Renapor (7)
9 RASTER BUSTER 97 P Society 4-10-10 T Jervins
10 POOR FARBER 90 P Biochley 4-10-10 C Resiett
11 B SAGACTY 32 J Laigh 4-10-10 J Table (7)
12 BY TRILLY SBANT 14 J YOUNG 5-10-10 J Table (7)
13 BW CHATTY CORNER 877 C Brooks 8-10-5 Znd pref
14 PSU ESCOND AWARD 32 J Laigh 5-10-5 J J Carlon
9-4 Sheeker, 3-4 Gyrmfrak Standon, 4-3 Marriana 4-4

#### Course specialists

MEWTON ABBOT: Trainent: O Bioomfield, 4 winners from 8 runners. So Phis M Pipe. 138 from 416, 30.2%; C Grooks, 3 from 13, 23.1%; R Hobbur, 20 from 101, 19.5%; J Edwards, 8 from 43, 16.5%; D Murray Smith, 3 from 18, 16.7%. Jockeyes N Alexas, 5 wenners from 17 rides, 29.4%; A Webb, 13 from 77, 16.5%; N Coleman, 15 from 118, 12.7%; M Booky, 4 from 36, 11.1%; N Newton, 6 from 58, 10.5%. (Only quantiers). PlantingCoOk: Tustinens: F Murphy, 4 witners from 14 runners, 28.5%; M Bartin, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Edwards, 11 from 46, 22.5%; O Sherwood, 13 from 61, 21.3%; N Harderson, 14 from 88, 20.6%; G Baiding, 18 from 61, 21.3%; N Harderson, 14 from 88, 20.6%; G Baiding, 18 from 61, 21.5%; J Schulper, 21 from 100, 21.0%; R Rowe, 16 from 114, 15.6%; R Guest, 21 from 100, 21.0%; R Rowe, 18 from 114, 15.6%; R Guest, 5 from 72, 11.1%; W Humphreys, 3 from 27, 11.1%; (Orly qualifors).

NAMEST ASSENT Trainers: C Thornton, 10 winners from 25 runners, 40,0%; C Brooks, 3 from 9, 33,3%; N Henderson, 5 from 18, 27,8%; T Tate, 3 from 11, 27,3%; N Trivier, 16 from 63, 25,4%; M H Bestarby, 25 from 99, 25,3%, Jackeyer D Syrne, 12 winners from 54 rides, 22,2%; J Culren, 7 from 51, 13,7%; P News, 14 from 193, 13,6%, (Only qualifiers). La. 7%; P. Waven, 14 from 193, 13.6%. (Only qualifiers).

BEDGEFELID: Trainers: May V. Aconley, 5 witners from 18 nertions, 27.6%; N. Thioler, 5 from 19, 26.3%; B. Ellison, 3 from 19, 22.5%; G. Moore, 22 from 19, 23.7%; M. M. Essterby, 21 from 93, 22.6%; G. Moore, 22 from 107, 20.1%; Jockstyn: A. J. Coulin, 4 winners from 12 rides, 33.3%; D. Crossman, 4 from 15, 26.7%; M. Mill, 7 from 27, 25.9%; P. Mildoley, 6 from 30, 20.0%; R. Gammy, 11 from 59, 18.6%; C. Ryan, 3 from 20, 15.6%.

● Von Csadek is now likely to run in next year's Seagram Grand National. The eight-year-old's American owners were against letting the horse take part at Amtree, but Wantage trainer Henricita Knight said yesterday that they have had a change of heart. "I think I've pursuaded them to change their minds. Von Csadek will miss Cheltenham and just have a small race somewhere between January and the bis one."

#### Elsworth's words rally the faithful By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT grey, pointed out. "It was on

DAVID Elsworth was radiating

confidence yesterday as Desert Orchid had his final exercise efore attempting to become the first horse to win this after-noon's King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park for the fourth time.

"We took him out in a mini gale this morning and he's in tremendous shape, absolutely spot on. I'll be surprised and disappointed if he doesn't win." Such strong words from the realistic Elsworth must surely hift the spirits of the faint hearted who were discouraged by Desert Orchid's last of four to Young Snugfit at Sandown, beaten a total of 20 lengths. "Desert Orchid is not a myth, he's a racehorse. For the past

few months he's been simed solely for the King George. We would win, but knowing in our beart of hearts that it was unlikely. He wasn't ready to do

"Apart from that, is there any horse in the country that could have given Young Snugfit 211b and beaten him over two miles? Sabin Du Loir could not and he

was only conceding 11b."

Just six days short of his twelfth birthday, Desert Orchid must inevitably soon be showing signs of his age. But the trainer countered: "Desert Orchid must be trained to the trainer countered to the trainer countered." chid is probably not getting any better but there's not much evidence that he's deteriorating. He's on a plateau. It's probably now a question of how quickly be comes down from that level." The heavy rain that has fallen

racing style. It puts the focus on Despite the amount of rain that has fallen, the quick-drain-ing Sunbury track was reported to be in good condition by Michael Webster, the clerk of the course, "We've had half an inch of rain but its still only good. But it may be riding a bit

heavy ground that he won the Gold Cup, and it was firm when he was beaten last year. The soft highlights a different part of his

we get any more rain."

Jenny Piuman will walk the course this morning before deciding whether to let Toby Tobias, last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up, take most of the night listening to the rain falling. It was music to my

cars."
Toby Tobias has not run since winning at Liverpool last April, "It could be a rough race with so pretty good shape but he'll be allowed to run his race and won't be knocked about if he

In Somerset, Martin Pipe was putting to the finishing touches to his powerful Boxing Day team. "The King George is a tough race but I'm very hopeful for Sabin Diu Lois Me's wear. for Sabin Du Loir. He's very well and I'm confident that he'll stay the extra half mile."
Reluctant as I am to desert
Desert Orchid, Celtic Shot is
reaching his prime as a chaser, I
take the former champion hurdier to prove too good for Desert. will be in Desert Orchid's favour take the former champion der to prove too good for ity shareholder in the flying Orchid and Toby Tobias.

#### Cheering News to make his mark over timber

From Our IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN DERMOT Weld, who won the outstanding novices of the cur

the Curregh and the pair are due to renew rivalry in the Ir£12,000 Dennys Juvenile Hurdle at Leo-pardstown today.

Weld: Triumph hopes for Cheering News

The 12-runner field includes two contestants looking for trebles, Elaguska and Mounannra. Both jump well but neither would be within a stone of Cheering News on the Flat. The other big attraction is the Dennys Gold Medal Novices' Chase which features an exciting clash between three of the

Delify Express Triumph Hurdle rent campaign. Redundant Pal, at Cheltenham in March with Rare Holiday, has already set Redundant Pal, winner of the Rare Holiday, has already set his sights on a repeat success with Cheering News. He proved to be a useful three-year-old on the Flat, winning three of his four starts including two listed would prefer to keep him to fend the beautiful to the starts including two listed with the starts are the base when the of his trainer to he his trainer to he his trainer to he him to fend the of his trainer to he him to fend the of his trainer than of his trainer than of his trainer than of his trainer than of his trainer to keep him to fend the order to he him to fend the him to fend t cing. He has won two of his In the first of these he beat three starts so far, but was not Boarding School by a length at particularly impressive at Pun-

Joyful Noise is another smart hurdler to make the grade over fences with two wins but at the weights the form selection has to be Rook-Tee. He meets Joyful Noise on 8lb better terms for a six lengths beating at Navan when returning after a long layoff and subsequently put up a bold display of jumping to beat Good For A Laugh on a return visit to Navan.



Sping: good

ASHAVEN NOVICES MURCLE 189 254 THE SALES OF THE S THE CASE THAT BY THE STATE OF T

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STING 11-10 Mc-op 12-1 - 2-3 Choose 1983: FRENCH GOGLIN 5-17-11 FORM FOCUS ARDERUN DANS AMARINE SENS AMARINE

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100 Roder Size JIN BIRLING JACK

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MADCH AFFEND 25 (D. PERCEN)

MADCH AFFEND 47 (FOURTH OF ASSET OF

STREE 94 ROYSI ESTIMATE 35 (0) (LEST TENTED 94 ROYSI ESTIMATE) 3-1 ROSSO SI 1989: LINCLE ERHEE : 1-0 M DV 1 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES CHAS SUMPLIFICATION OF THE 22 (B.SE) I DESCRIPTION OF THE 23 (B.SE) I DESCRIPTION OF THE 25 (B.SE)

Serve Time 22 (B.Ber) (D Gal) J. John (2) (B.Ber) (D Gal) 1989: CAPRICK HILL LAD 6-11-6 Course: TRAINERS

مكذا س الاصل

# Desert Orchid poised for record 220 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Grade 1: £45,190: 3m) (11

AS HE did a year ago, Desert Orchid comes to the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park this afternoon with a point to prove.

Defeat in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown earlier in the month has again raised doubts that his formidable powers are waning, but I believe reports of his demise are exaggerated. Desert Or-chid is napped to win the King George for an unprecedented fourth time.

Certainly his task is more difficult than last season. His defeat at Sandown then was by only 2½ lengths, whereas on this occasion he was never dangerous in the second half of the race won by Young Snugfit.

On the face of it that was disappointing, but there was has never made any secret of reportedly went well in a disappointing, but there was sufficient against him to suggest that he can once more rise to the big occasion here for his regular partner, Richard Dunwoody. The Sandown race was over two miles, a distance much too short for him the minute. The short for him to suggest that he can once more rise the fact that the King George has always been Desert Or-His claims rest on a second to Norton's Coin in last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup, with horse so well, has no peer at preparing a runner primed to away third, and he already heads the betting for next much too short for him, whereas this three miles on a course he clearly relishes will be much more to his taste. Pace is usually the first

casualty of advancing years and as he approaches his twelfih birthday Desert Orchid is no longer ideally recent rain.
equipped to tackle specialists Celtic Sho



Elsworth and Dunwoody reunited as Desert Orchid attempts to win a record fourth King George

the minute.

The opposition is stronger than last year, when Desert Orchid started an odds-on favourite, but Celtic Shot and Toby Tobias, two of his most potent rivals, would prefer softer ground even given the

Celuc Shot, a former cham-

missed lightly.

heads the betting for next year's Gold Cup. There is no doubting his quality but the lack of a previous outing cannot be in his favour.

Sabin Du Loir has twice finished ahead of Desert Orchid this season over shorter trips but he will have his work cut out to complete that part-

three years ago. If Doumen's opinion that The Fellow is superior to Nupsala is correct, The Fellow cannot be dis-

But Desert Orchid has made Kempton Park on Boxing Day his own. There could be no more appropriate setting for him to prove that we have not yet beard the last of him.

While the King George brings together the established top flight, the Buthn's Fei-tham Novices' Chase stages a cracking meeting of future stars. Ardbrin, Morley Street and Sparkling Flame are the three main protagonists, and I give Morley Street the opportunity to redeem his reputation after a surprise defeat at

larger English fences with an emphatic win at Worcester.

Remittance Man at Ascot, but confidence. Jumping out to

demands he can be given another chance.

Ardbrin and Sparkling Flame have both impressed in

Man should complete a treble in the Royal Garden Hotel Handicap Hurdle, while the consistent Laplaffe can gain and began his career over the look the force he was, Birling rger English fences with an Jack prefers it softer while appearing win at Worcester.

He was then beaten by Sive, is stepping up in class.

Arthur Stephenson, the trai-

#### Trainers' preferences

#### cannot afford that generosity winner in October.

#### Selections By Mandarin

KHMPTON PARK

Michael Seely's selection: 2.20 Celtic Shot. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.20 DESERT ORCHID.

12.46 HAVEN NOVICES HURDLE (26,258: 2m) (22 runners) 283-112 LA CIENAGA 30 (C.F) (Duto Of Atholis G Belding 6-11-6.

423-112 LA CIENAGA 30 (C.F) (Duto Of Atholis G Belding 6-11-6.

11/88-21 YOURG POKEY 32 (D.F.G) (M Obertain) O Sherwood 5-11-6.

ARAMAZAR 486F (Mar N Smitth Mar N Smitth 4-11-0.

28-8 BELL GLASS 32 (R Billingsley) J Jenion 4-11-0.

33 CLASSIC STATEMENT 23 (Aria 6 fillchins) Mar J Plyman 4-11-0.

21198 DEADLY CHARMA 49 (D.R.F.K.Q) (A Arminage) D Nicholson 4-11-0.

8 DEADLY CHARMA 49 (D.R.F.K.Q) (A Arminage) D Nicholson 4-11-0.

8 DEADLY CHARMA 49 (D.R.F.K.Q) (A Arminage) D Nicholson 4-11-0.

9 FRISCO CITY 23 (G Slose) J Gilfond 4-11-0.

9 GRANVILLEWATEMFORD 25 (D.B.F.K.Q) (Are D Stane) S Sherwood 5-11-0.

90 GREENWINE 14 (A Morach) P Belliny 4-11-0.

90 GREENWINE 14 (A Morach) P Belliny 4-11-0.

90 HALLEWATEMFORD 25 (D.B.F.Q) (Are D Stane) S Sherwood 5-11-0.

9 PINACTORS 42 (B) (I Wygmann) W Wigsman 5-11-0.

9 PINACTORS GLORY 37 (Mrs K Centerd R Smyth 5-13-0.

9 PINACTORS GLORY 37 (Mrs K Centerd R Smyth 5-13-0.

9 PINACTORS GLORY 37 (Mrs K Centerd R Smyth 5-13-0.

9 PINACTORS GLORY 37 (Mrs M Motors) A J Wilson 6-11-0.

9 SWITCH 32 (B) Despetay (C Brooks 4-11-0.

9 SWITCH 32 (B) Green M Motors) A J Wilson 6-11-0.

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9 SWITCH 32 (B) GREEN M MOTORS (B) A J Wilson 6-11-0. 202-1 GAASO 20 (Q.F) & Parkert P. Alerbert 5-11-5. H Device S Kungaries S de Plaga Sir S Toni

TOTALE SET BY SELECTION TO SERVICE TO THE SERVICE SET TO SERVICE SET TO SERVICE SET TO SERVICE SERVICE

1986: THIRYLAND 5-11-0 R Dunwoody (5-1) N Henderson) 17 ren

FORM FOCUS GAASED continuity best Peace long (gave 4b) 61 at Accot 2m, nov. good to firm). Lt CENAGA 2nd beaten 201 by Tyrone Bridge (rec 4b) at Workerhempton (2m 44, nov., good to strip. Lt Workerhempton (2m 44, nov., good to strip.) And the strip of the strip of

1.15 BUTLIN'S FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE (Grade I: 223,330; 3m) (7

BETTING: 11-10 Montey Street, 4-1 Archrin, 9-2 Sparking Hene, 7-1 Copporte, 10-1 Tom Tree 18-1 Man Ch The Line, 33-1 Sheh's Choice.

1980: PRENCH GOELIN 6-10-11 Peter Hobbs (16-8 few) J Cifford 7 mm FORM FOCUS ARDINAN best Mortis
moons (rec 7b) 81
easily at Haydock (2m 4f, nov ch, good to soft).

COMPATE was a local and local to soft, controlled and presented the race to M and the soft of the s

# WETHERBY: 5

1.00 Rodeo Star.

2.30 Leigh Boy. 3.00 Durham Edition. 3.35 Blacksharp.

By Michael Scely 3.00 BIRLING JACK (nap). 3.35 Le Temeraire.

#### Going: good

er timber

1.0 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,884: 2m) (16 runners) CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O; £1,884; 2m) (
49-12 FAR MORE 40 (F) (A Wittson) Romaid Thompson 11-7
1 RODED STAR 22 (20,0) (J Brackury) N Tisider 11-7
1-9-09 ANOTHER FOUNTAIN 14 (Afts E Dison) J Dison 11-0
CAVALCANTI 45F (Afts S Glover) J Glover 11-0
3644 DAWAAM 30 (W Lockury) B Wildison 11-0
05 DAWAAM 30 (W Lockury) B Wildison 11-0
10 DOCTOR SYNTAX 54 (F) (T Charles) E Aktion 11-0
10 ENHAUP BEF (Afts J Golfings) J Leigh 11-0
10 LOWILANDS 35 (R Hegges) Jinimy Fizgeraid 11-0
10 MARCH AMERIC 67 (P Piero) W Stapherson 11-0
20-NO MORE THE FOOL 4 (8) (R Leach J Berry 11-0
10 DOCTOR SYNTAX 54 (F) (Warner) Jinmy Rizgeraid 11-0
20-NO MORE THE FOOL 4 (8) (R Leach J Berry 11-0
10 POLAR RESIGNS 140\* (C Marner) Jinmy Rizgeraid 11-0
10 POLAR RESIGNS 10 (Afts J Philister) C Thomson 11-0
10 WINDLE-WARBLE 35 (0) (Lady Herris) J Johnson 11-0
10 WINDLE-WARBLE 35 (0) (Lady Herris) J Johnson 11-0
10 TINGS 9-4 Royal Estimate, 3-1 Rodeo Star, 11-2 Lowlends, R T Reed
R Stronge
L Wyer
B Alaton (7) ons Ltd) N Tielder 11-0 Mr K Johann J Serton (7) — L (7tere (3) + 98 Mohamban (7) 79

BETTIMG: 94 Royal Estimate, 3-7 Rodeo Star, 11-2 Louisnote, 10-1 Far More, 12-1 Poter Registion, 14-1 Devicem, Doctor System, 16-1 others.

1989: UNCLE ERMIE 11-8 M Owyer (7-4 line) James Fitzgerald 16 rate

1.30 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE (£4,736: 3m 100yd) (8 runners) 

Course specialists

... (# Permis

1888: WORDER SEAN 4-11-2 M Plants (18-2) Mrs J Plants 6 ran

**RUNNERS AND RIDERS SEE RIGHT** 

BETTING: 1-5 Remitteres Mars, 9-4 Category, 96-1 American. 1990. CELTIC SHOT 7-11-4 P Soudemore (30-100 fint) C Brooks 5 run

L Dage (7) 94 B Dimercialy 99 W Morris 96 418229 STAGE PLAYER 25 (CD.P) (M Morrson) R Simpson 4-11-1...
1803-09 HIGHLAND BOURTY 35 (F.G) (A Etherdopt S Dow 6-10-12...
4803-09 STEMME 21 (CJ.A.B) R Herbert) Alex E Simple 3-10-6...
1211-FP COMMERMERE 25 (CJ.A.B) (J Joseph) R Front 6-10-7...
21-462 LAPLAFFE 20 (CJ.A.B) (A Obershirth Mrs J Planes 6-10-1...
1/413P- DAT TRANS 248 (SJ.S) (M Obershirth Mrs J Planes 6-10-1...
80(SJPP WELSH BLUESELL 17 (Mrs M Whoot) Greene Roo 6-10-0... . J Frest 9 99

# Guide to our in-line racecard

**2.0 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (25,117: 2m 4f 100yd) (8 runners)** 

2215-64 VILLERSTOWN 25 (CD.F.C.S) (P PRof. W A Supplement II-11-10 Mr.H. Johnson 2215/C) NOS NA GAORTIE 25 (A.C.S) (P Green) Mr H Easterby 7-11-7 L Wy 91-138U CLD APPLEJACK 21 (CD.RF.F.S) (G Toole) J Johnson 10-11-6 The 97-1980 CLD APPLICATION 21 (CAUPY-73) IS 10089 J J088800 10-11-6
282,PUD HANDY TROCK 22 (C.F.Q.S) (J Hersong J Herson 9-11-6
1/P1159- BM BAJED 288 (D.F.Q.S) (F O'Dornell) Jimmy Fizgardid 6-11-5
139-31F THE OBRION BARBER 4 (CD.F.Q.S) (F Carpai) G Richards 8-11-6
282-31S BAD TRADE 18 (D.Q.S) (P PMs) W A Shaphurpoon 6-10-5
88-6145 BMPERTAIN 15 (CD.F) (Developmon Ltd) T Caminghom 18-18-0

2.30 LONG MARSTON HANDICAP HURDLE (E3,590: 2m) (4 navers)

3.D ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (£17,480: 3m 100yd) (9 runners)

R.35 BOXING DAY MOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (\$2,954: 2m) (10 runners)

1982: AFRICAN SPIRIT 5-11-1 S Turner (8-1) R Vindelor 17 rps

their brief careers over fences and could go right to the top. They will make it a stere test but Morley Street is taken to pass the examination. The improving Wonder

an overdue reward in the Shearings Handicap Hurdle. At Wetherby, Durham Edi-tion can follow up last year's win in the Rowland Meyrick Handican Chase. He is 19lb better off for an eight lengths Attorn.

He won the Breeders' Cup
Chase at Belmout Park, New

Attorn.

defeat by Mr Frisk in last
season's Whitbread Gold Cup
at Sandown, and of his other York, in October with ease, rivals Bob Tisdail does not

his trainer, Toby Balding, ner of Durham Edition, is also attributed that setback to an strongly represented in the early mistake draining his Supermaster Handicap Chase with Villierstown and Bad the left and losing ground did Trade, but I prefer Old Applenot help either, and while he jack, a course and distance

two-milers who challenge him throughout.

There is, however, no evidence yet that his stamina or courage have failed him. David Elsworth, his trainer,

### 1.45 ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (25,085: 2m) (9

201 046-P11 WORDER MAIN 11 [CD,F,G,B) gates 8 Rublins) Mrs J Plenum 5-13-0 22 260-226 ATLANL 25 (CD,F,G) (O Conneils) J Jackins 5-13-6 260-226 26

Long teandicap: M I Babe 5-8.
BETTING: 15-8 Wonder Man, 4-1 Liedes, 6-1 Old Weginia, Alleni, 8-1 Saure D'Or, Good Spark, 12-1 Mil, 14-1 Stone Fisics, 16-1 Mil Babe.

FORM FOCUS WONDER MAN best part of the Crempton Std 7th beater 28 at Ayr (2n, Scotter Std 11 at Acct (2n, 1da, 2cc) at Ayr (2n, Scotter Std 11 at Acct (2n, 1da, 2cc) at Ayr (2n, Scotter Std 11 at Acct (2n, 1da, 2cc) at Ayr (2n, Scotter Std 11 at Acct (2n, 2cc) at Ayr (2n, Scotter Std 12n, 1da, 2cc) at Ayr (2n, Scotter Std 12n, 1

2.50 WARNERS WAYWARD LAD NOVICES CHASE (29,420: 2m 4f) (3

3.20 SHEARINGS HANDICAP HURDLE (25,312: 3m) (9 tunners) 801 8-5225 WISHLOM 11 (F.O.) (Miss D Stoyes) FI Smyth 7-11-10... 802 BP2-164 CONCRETA PARK 46 (F.O.S.) (M Globor) F Mitchell 5-1

FORM FOCUS WeekLON Sin beating to the process of th

# 113149 9000 TRACE 13 (SF.J./A.6) (Mrs. D. Rothneck) S Hall 12-0 ...

# \_\_\_ \$ West (7) - 01

edicaux Importain B-11.

1 (F1/180- HILL STREET 204 (D.F.G.S) (A Boolge (Bruhn) List) Amony Regardd 6-12-0... 2nd profit 2 (F5-211 LEGGN 807 25 (CD.F.G.S) (A Rosson) G Moone 4-11-6... III Driver 3 2111-FF VALIANT 807 27 (D.F.G.S) (D Price) M OTION 5-10-0... 2nd profit 4 10-1231 PAPAJOTO 32 (D.F.G.S) (D Price) M OTION 5-10-0... L Wyer 6 Long handlage Papajoto 9-11.

BETTIME 44 Large Scy. 5-4 Papajoto.

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Grade I: £45,190: Sm) (11

501 122-119 RESETTANCE MAN 11 (D.F.O) (J. Collini) N. Hunderson 6-11-7... SSE PER-SSI ABDILLIAN 11 (T. Thors) J. Bridge 10-11-0... SSB 11/24-62 CALAPAEZ 22 (SP.F.O.B) (T. Shina) Mini S. Sanders 6-11-0.....

FORM FOCUS MEMITTANCE MAN | CALAPAEZ, has by far the best hundle form, sk 2nd to Cardina Raibh (favolati, a witner since, on chaning Mariey Street (gave 3b) 91 with AMPRILLAM (no 48b) | debut at Lucuszar (2m 44, nov., good).

4th beaster 4734 at Ascot (2m 44, good to Bas).

Selection: CALAPAEZ

SETTING: 7-2 Combenners, 5-1 Leptinfe, Cowords Peck, 6-1 Walton, Det Train, 7-1 Steme, 6-1 Stage Player, 5-5 Egistend Sounty. (CC-1 Witch Starbell. 1980: AUCTION LAW 5-11-10 R Deliwoody (11-4 lev) D Serons 9 ten

### Course specialists

DETTRIC: 3-1 Nos No Groute, 7-2 On Majori, 4-1 Oni Applejack, 6-1 The Dasson Barber, 11-2 Bed in, 3-1 Villerstown, 12-1 Henry Trick, 33-1 toperain. VIII PROCESSE GARLO G-11-5 In Dayer (11-4 bej Jamey Ringerski & Lan

401 2F12-11 ARCTIC CALL 32 (B.CD.F.G.S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 7-11-10 ...... J Osborna 78

(Royal blue, pink epauless, pink cap)
402 F81-111 CELTIC SHOT 14 (C.D.G.S) (D Horton) C Brooks 8-11-10 ...... 409 23-1331 THE FELLOW 38 (G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalia) F Doumen (Fr) 5-11-10 ...... A Kondrat -

BETTING: 13-8 Desert Orchid, 9-2 Celtic Shot, 5-1 Sabin Du Loir, 11-2 Toby Tobias, 8-1 Arctic Cell, 10-1 The Fellow, 18-1 Nick The Brief, 25-1 Espy, 40-1 Panto Prince, 200-1 Prize Asset. 1989: DESERT ORCHID 10-11-10 R Dunwoody (4-6 fav) D Elsworth 6 ran

#### Form guide to the 11 acceptors

mail,
Nov 7, Newbury, firm: (11-8) beat
Man O'Magic (11-10) 11 (3m, h'cap,
£4.258, 2 ran).
Apr 5 Liverpool, good to firm: (11-3)
%I 2nd to Royal Ashlets (11-9) with
ESPY (11-8) faller 19th (3m 1f, nov
feeture ch, £21,035, 11 ran).

CELTIC SHOT Dec 12. Haydock, good to soft: (11-2) beet Garrison Savannah (11-4) 81 with NICK THE BRIEF (11-10) 3rd beaten 14! (3m, ch, £10,025, 6 ran). Nov 21, Haydock, soft: [11-9] beat Party Politics (10-7) 2I (3m, imited h'cap, £10,155, 6 ran).

Nov S. Watherby, good: (11-2) beat ICL DIMO (11-2) 4/ (3m 100yd, ch, £18,384, 7 ran). DESERT ORCHID

Dec 1, Sandown, good to firm: (12-0) 20t 4th to Young Shugfit (10-7) with SABIN DU LOIR (10-6) 2nd beaten 2! (2m 18)d, limited h'cap, 215,708, 5 ram). 215,703. 5 ram.
Nov 6, Dewon, good: (11-0) 6l 2nd to SABIN DU LOR (11-0) (2m 11, oh, 216,048, 5 ran).
Apr 16, Palryhouse, good: (12-0) beat Barney Burnett (10-0) 12l (3m 4l, 8sted Ir cap ah, 255,200, 14 ran).

MIN(@ANNE(@)N

Selections By Mandarin

12.30 Binsy Grove. 1.0 Clean Through. 1.30 Marradong Brook. 2.0 Skipping Tim. 2.30 Chancery Buck. 3.0 Monday Club.

12.30 FATHER CHRISTMAS FILLIES NOVICES HURDLE (E1,842. 2m) (19 runners)

4-8 Sweet N' Twenty, 3-1 Kinto, 5-1 Binny Grove, 6-1 Lady sec, 19-1 Doreen's Pride, 13-1 Plantiful, 14-1 others.

LO BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (E2,880: 2m)

1 387 SKYLJAK WONDER 628 (D.G) C Pophen 8-11-10 5 Domeloo (7) 2 2283 JAMA 2ULU 19 (BF.F.O) P Hobbs 5-11-7. C Name (5) 3 -111 CLEAN THROUGH 6 (D.G) N Honderson 5-11-5 (Ann)

8-11 Clean Through, 3-1 Jame Zulu, 6-1 Sigherk Wonder 13-1 Come Down.

1.30 CORAL GOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,938, 2m 6f) (16)

6 1-PF MOSECARA 24 (2,5) Mrs J Phress 5-10-13 — J Hall 4 1-01 MCX THE DREAMEN 25 (5,5) W (5 M Turner 5-10-11 Ms 6 Castrool (5 3-46 TORKABAR 7 (6) 6 Hum 5-10-1... M A PROSPAGE (6 (6) 9 Whiter HAVEN 36 (8,53,0) J Bailer 7-10-8. M Lynn 7 31-1 MARRADONO BROOK 23 (5,0) T Forster 5-10-6 (1) I MARRADONO BROOK 23 (5,0) T Forster 5-10-6 (1) I MARRADONO BROOK 23 (5,0) T Forster 5-10-6 (1) I MARRADONO BROOK 23 (5,0) T Forster 5-10-8

10 812- ACRESVAL'S LEGIP 200 (G,6) No. F Windryn 6-10-4 K Hoenty

11 -13P SHMSTON 7 (B.CO.JF.JE) W.G. M. Tumer S-10-4 J. Nepron (7) 12 PSB- ARCTIC BARON 508 Miss J. Troms 5-10-0..... N. Dane

WOLVERHAMPTON

By Mandarin

1.0 Return To Romance. 1.30 Red Roudo. 2.0 New Halen. 2.30 Rynode. 3.0 Dolly Wardance. 3.30 Shu Fly.

1.0 NETHERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O:

1 8645 THE LICENTER BIDE 15 (D.F.G) IS Present 11-10

4 -551 RETURN TO ROMANCE 27 (P.J.) F Jordan 10-9

5 1959 NO ICHI DO ST (B.D.F.) Miles S Willow 10-8 Ocelor (S)
6 -117 RAG TIME RELLE 34 (CD.F.(d) M Eckley 10-4. T Wild
7 DFE2 EMPERORS WARROOK 11 C Stood 10-0 P NicDemont
8 DP1 LYPH 30 (D.F.(s) P Hodger 10-4. R Oktobery (S)
9 P-00 SELLIFEAD 11 K White 10-0. A OH Hogger
10 9456 PALM SWET 28 A Chamberlish 10-0. 2nd pref

5-2 Clos Du Bols, 7-2 Rag Time Bale, 5-1 Emperors Warrior, 6-1 Lyph, 8-1 The Lighter Side, 10-1 others. 1,30 DEEPFRELDS MOVICES CHASE (DZ.879; 2m)

4-6 Red Rondo, 9-4 Hard Staff, 8-1 Blockern, 18-1 Indian Harry, 16-1 Care Mark, 18-1 Uniform Girl. 2.0 HARRY SECORY CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP

1 F-21 DEEP FLASH 41 F-3.) I Edwards 7-11-10 M Williamson 2 1364 NEW HALEN 11 (CD,0.5) A Jimes 9-11-7 E Tiemey (7) 3 09F WIGTOWN BAY 22 (D,F.0.) Jimes 6-7-11-4 4 09-4 SALTINIAS STAR 52 (D,F.0.5) P Seven 10-10-0 T Wish 5 102M SOLAR CLOUD 32 (D,F.0.5) M (Contra S-10-0) D Shigarator (7)

5-4 New Helen, 15-8 Deep Flash, 5-2 Wignown Say, 12-1 Berthau Star, 20-1 Solar Croud.

Course specialists

Going: good to firm (good in places)

22,092: 2m) (10 runners)

CHASE (£6,060: 2m 4f) (5)

2 456 ROYAL CRAFTSRAI 11 (F.G) A Dum 9-11-0 C No.

4 -822 CAME DOWN 20 (BP) R Hodges 7-10-6.....

Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-0) best Master Bob (10-3) 2! with YON CSADER (10-11) 17 8th (3m 2! 52yd, grade fill h'cap, £36,958, 13 ran).

NICK THE BRIEF

Osc 12, Heydock, good to soft see CELTIC SHOT.

Mar 15, Chaitenham, good to firm: (12-0) pulled after 12m behind Norton's Coin (12-0) with TOSY TOSIAS (12-0) 41 3rd (3m 2/, championship ch, 267,003, 12 ran). Feb 17, Leopardstown, soft; (12-0) best Carvill's Hill (12-0) 5l with PANTO PRINCE (12-0) over 30 4th (3m, listed ch, £47,225, 6 ran).

Oct 25, Wincanton, firm: (11-6) best Prideaux Boy (11-8) 201 (2m 51, grade II ch, £17026, 3 ran).

PRIZE ASSET

Oct 26, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) beat Comandante (11-10) 2t (2m 4f, ch. £4,010: 3 ran). SABIN DU LOIR

Nov 18, Ascot good to firm (11-0) 31 2nd to Morley Street (11-10) (2m 4f, grade If ndle, £15.020, 5 ran).

PANTO PRINCE Nov 27, Huntingdon, good: (11-9) 7: 4th to Pagwell Bay (11-1) (2m 4t, grade II ch, £16,369, 5 ran). Nov 8, Wincenton, firm: (11-10) beet Weish Oak (10-7) over 30i (3m 11, limited h'cap ch, £12,620, 2 ran).

Dec 1, Sandown, good to firm; see DESERT ORICHID.

Nov 5, Devan, good, see DESERT ORCHID. THE FELLOW Nov 18, Auteuil, heavy (10-5) best Rocker (9-8) sh nk (3m 3f 110ys, cn, £54.309, 6 ran). 254.339.6 ran).
Oct 18. Enghian, soft (11-0) 4½ 3rd to Sharykoun (10-7) (3m 1f, cn, £48.231.9 ran).
E48.231.9 ran).
Sep 30. Autsuid heavy (11-0) 2½1.
3rd to Brambella (9-13) (2m 5f, ch, £25,723, 5 ran).

TOBY TOBIAS Apr 5, Liverpool, good to firm (11-9) beat Cavvies Clown (11-5) 1%I (3m 11, feature ch. \$22,218 5 ran) Mar 15, Chettenham, good to firm: see NICX THE BRIEF. Feb 10, Newbury, heavy (11-6) unseated nder 10th in a contest won by Barmbrook Again (11-12) (3m, listed ch, £11,030, 4 rsn).

VON CSADEK

Apr 16, Fairyhouse, good: (12-0) best Barney Burnett (10-0) 12 (3m 44, 8sted h'cap ch, 255,200, 14 ran).

May 1, Ascot, firm: (11-11) 4%1 4th to With Gods Help (10-3) (2m, h'cap, 27.050, 6 ran).

Apr 19, Chaltenheim, firm: (11-10) unsetted main 7m in a comest won by Nohamdun (11-13) (2m, h'cap, 27.152, 3 ran).

Apr 7, Liverpool, firm: (10-7) 5i to Selection: CESERT ORICHID

S Mallall TA MAR INTAN OF KRAWAIT BY (F) IN THORSESS 5-10-0

16 23/ POP DANCER 779 (F) W G M Turner & 10-0 R Goldstein 2.0 MID SEASON CHASE (25,117 2m 5f) (7)

1 3-81 CERTAIN STYLE 18 (G.S) D Sherwood 7-11-2

4 -P2F BATTLE BLAZE (5 W G M Turner 7 to 10

5 18F1 ZUMMERSET 20 gr.0) A Berrow 6 to 10 ... A Twy (3)

8 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to 6 to ... A Twy (3)

9 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to 6 to ... A Twy (3)

10 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to 6 to ... A Twy (3)

10 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to 6 to ... A Twy (3)

10 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to 6 to ... A Twy (3)

10 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to ... A Twy (3)

2 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to ... A Twy (3)

2 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to ... A Twy (3)

3 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to ... A Twy (3)

4 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to ... A Twy (3)

5 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to ... A Twy (3)

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5 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to ... A Twy (3)

5 P-SF Elista P(BPFER 27 C Pophern 6 to ... 2.35 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (23.262: 3m 1f) (6)

1 -839 ROBCOE HARVEY 30 (F,G,E) C Brooks 8-11-11 2 476- SLUE DART 281 (CD,G,8) T Foreign 10-11-7 4 -811 LANDERDALE LAD 28 (CO,I,II) J King 8-10-9

7 -P36 INPERIAL CHAMPAGNE 28 (CO,G,S) Mms J T 10 IO-1 8 8-21 UNDER OFFER 12 (B,G,S) P Boloy 9-10-0 M R S-1 Lauderdele Lad, 7-2 Chemony Buck, 4-1 Roscos Har-vey, 5-1 Golden Minetrel, 5-1 Under Offer, 5-1 others.

1.3 STIRRUP CUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,828: 2m) (13) 4 3-47 FMER PRIVILION 30 Mrs J Recay 6-10-11
6 4465 THE SLATER 27 W G M Turner 5-10-5... C Maude (8
6 452 MONDAY CLUB 4 (9.6) M Ppc 6-10-5... C Maude (8
7 805 CARPE 05EM 3235 M McNed 5-10-0.... B Arnest
8 P357 PRINE WARDEN 48 R HOSter 6-10-0.... B Arnest
9 5-80 WARDENGE LADY 78 R Serion 5-10-0... If Mooney
10 MPP BOVERSON DEED 20 N ARIZING 8-10-0... R Mooney
11 MRS PARK 5-65 T S. A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R Mooney
12 MRN CHARD 5-11-0... R MOONEY
13 MRS PARK 5-65 T S. A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R Mooney
14 MRN CHARD 5-11-15 A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R Mooney
15 MRN CHARD 5-11-15 A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R Mooney
16 MRN CHARD 5-11-15 A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R Mooney
17 MRN CHARD 5-11-15 A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R MOONEY
18 MRN CHARD 5-11-15 A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R MOONEY
18 MRN CHARD 5-11-15 A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R MOONEY
19 MRN CHARD 5-11-15 A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R MOONEY
19 MRN CHARD 6-11-15 A CHARDEN 8-10-0... R MOONEY
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11 MRN CHARD 6-11-15 A CHARD 8-10-0... R MOONEY
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15 MRN CHARD 8-10-0... R MOONEY
16 MRN CHARD 8-10-0... R MOONEY
17 MRN CHARD 8-10-0... R MOONEY
18 MRN CHARD 8-10-0... R MOONEY

7-4 Monday Club. 7-2 Meter Oddy 6-1 Susan Menchard, 8-1 The Stear, 3-1 Andy Boy, 10-1 Prene Warden, 12-1 others

Course specialists TRANSPORT No. 1 Ferrare To account from (1 numbers 23 fm. M. Pape, 21 from 104 20 2m. C. Sherwood 9 norm 45 16 6m. N. Henderson, 7 from 45 14 6m. A Turnet, 7 from 45 14 6m. J. Gifford, 10 from 70, 14.2m. Brown 1. Inch. 12. 14276. Brown 91 rides, 16.5%, A Apwel, Strom 51, 15.7%, J Lower, 4 from 30, 13.3%, G Upson, 4 from 31, 12.9%, C Misude, 3 from 28, 10.7% (Only quarifiers).

230 OLDBURY INTERMEDIATE HANDICAP 1 11-4 WESTERM LEGEND SI (IF,G,R) J Edwards 5-12-0 N Wilson 2 3-14 BLITE BOY 25 (C.BF.F) M Olivie B-11-4 ... W McFerland 4 450F COUTURE COLOR 5 (S) J Mactee 7-10-0 ... 5 J O'Nell

5-4 Western Legand, 7-4 Ellie Boy, 7-2 Rynode, 16-1 Couture Color.

3.0 WREKIN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,996; 2m 4f) (17) 1 1119 CONCERT PAPER 7 (C,G,S) Mas 5 Willon 6-12-0 2 3-64 GENEROUS SCOT 36 A James 6-11-4 ... E Tenmy (7) 3 35-2 LEXXEN 19 (8,8F) M Pips 4-10-12 ... M Forster (7) 4 POR- VARCORIT 219 (F) A Rest 8-10-8 ... 2nd pref 5 32F- OVERT 223 B Mediation 5-10-8 ... T Wall 9-06 SPET OF KIERS 11 (8F,5) Mrs J Planus 5-10-7 D Gellegher 2 06-2 DOS 1 W MARINAMES 21 T Drovert 2-10-6 7 05-2 DOLLY WANDANCE 33 T Domedy 7-10-5 8 6-41 ASTRABEE 30 (6) J Wherion 5-10-3 J 07408
9 AP LAST SHOWER 16 J King 5-10-2 N Williamson
10 3-06 CATCHAPEINT 34 M Williamson 5-10-1 P Kelty (7)
11 2242 ROYAL HURT 48 W City 5-10-1 R Benan (5)
12 F359 HURDECOLA 21 B Preces 5-10-0 A Juckee (5)
13 B300 ARCTIC KEN 61 8 Painty 7-10-0 C Evanta
14 20 SOME SPARE 17 C Jones 11-10-0 M Jones (3)
15 26-2 FILAMPTON HOUSE 7 M Charles 6-10-0
D Bridgmaner (7)

15 900 HIGH CHATEAU 4.J Spenting 5-18-0 D SRidgenster (7) 17 -565 PERSIAN SWORD 11 D Nicrothon 4-10-0 R Bellinny (2) 5-2 Lexden, 4-1 Spirit Of Kibris 5-1 Dolly Wardence 6-1 Concert Paper 8-1 Franceon House Astrobee 10-1 others 3.30 WALSALL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2.512 2m) 3 -021 CSLTIC SOB 5 (0.F.S; 0 O'Heat 10-11-6 (7ex) 4 25-2 CARBONATE 27 (D.S) P Davies 5-10-2

5 3-0F GENTLEMAN'S JIG 25 (D.F.) J Edwards 5-10-2 N Williamson 8 U236 BICKERBOAN 5 (CD.F.G) J Spearing 7-10-0 7 /12 CHESTER TERRACE 50 (D.8) K Bridgester 5-10-0

8 542- COURT RILER 345 (D.F.Q.S) Miss S Wilton 7-10-0

9 40-0 TOKYO JOE 21 (D.G) F Aerson 7-10-0

10 1521 BOURRADASKA 21 (B.D.F.S) P Delton 7-10-0

Bitter C Missel 11 10-4 MORTHERN BARRY 29 (D,F) J McConnochie 6-10-0

12 1-00 PHYRIAFARI 33 (D,F) R Lee 9-10-0 12 1-00 PHTHAL-ARI SZ (D.F) R Lee 9-10-0 Leeume Eldredge (?)
18 5-54 CSEAM AND GREEN 5 K White 6-10-0 ...... A O'Negme
14 25P- REGAL BRASS 273 B McMarton 8-10-0 ........ ? Wall
9-2 Cellic Bob, 5-1 L'Uomo Piu, 6-1 Chester Terrace, 8-1
Carbonets, Shu Fly, 10-1 Bicksrman, Mouradable, 12-1 others.

TRANSPIR: M Pipe, 21 winners from 71 runners, 29.6%; Mrs J Plemen, 18 from 78, 23.1%; J Edwards, 17 from 78, 21.6%; Miss S Witton, 8 from 41, 19.5%; M Eckley, 3 from 19, 15.6%; R Lee, 6 from 43, 14.0%.

# Captured and captivating moments

By PETER BALL

SELECTING the best sports photographs from a whole year is a task to be approached with high seriousness, and perhaps some trepidation. There can be few doubts, however, about the quality of the photographs which the International Olympic Committee (IOC) jury finally came up with after two days of intense discussion in the Swiss resort of Verbier this summer.

Deciding on the criteria for making a decision was itself a considerable task. In the end, news values proved decisive. and the choice of the rejoicing West Germans as the winning picture reflected the position of football's World Cup as the year's greatest sporting extrav-

The difficulty of obtaining the photograph also played its part, photographers having only moments to get their pictures before the stadium lights went out. To find a position in the jostling throng and take such a picture which captured the mood of the tribute to both Simon Bruty's

skill and resourcefulness.

The peak of action, the dramatic moment, was also an important consideration for the jury, and Pascal Ron-deau's shot of the moment Gugelmin hit Berger's Ferrari on the first corner of the French grand prix can have few equals of shots of the moment of impact. Happily, there were no injuries to undermine appreciation of the

But as well as reportage, there were other criteria mood, composition, imagination - and the jury returned to the World Cup for the bronze medal, Gerard Vandystad's study of the Argentinian goal-keeper, Pumpido, in the open-ing match winning widespread admiration for its compo-aition, Taken from up in the stand it is patently an artistic stand, it is patently an artistic picture, using light and shade

Yet if those three pictures section, there were half a dozen others of supreme quality. Describing photographs which are not visible is a at the moment of impact, a shot of athletes reflected in a puddle, of a Tour de France puddle, of a Tour de France on their backs. A synchronised puddle, of a Tour de France rider having a break in a field, and of the Argentinian foot-ball team, bare-chested to a man, yelling in triumph at the end of a penalty shoot-out, rival the three winners.

This year the black and white photographs generally ie less impact, which is to

The moment of victory: West Germany's footballers celebrate their triumph in the World Cup

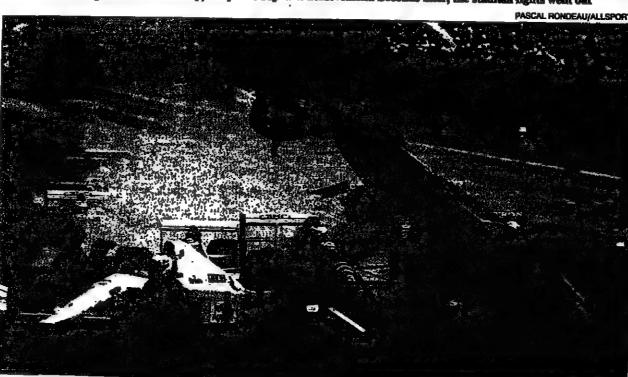
which are not visible is a photographs. Again, the dra-singularly useless activity, but matic moment proved de-an underwater shot of a diver cisive in selecting the winner,

of the swimmers about to ume Two, marketed by break surface in David IMS/Studio 6, Lausanne. Ashdown's shot. But if the Switzerland, and available at take nothing away from a humanised in the shot, the

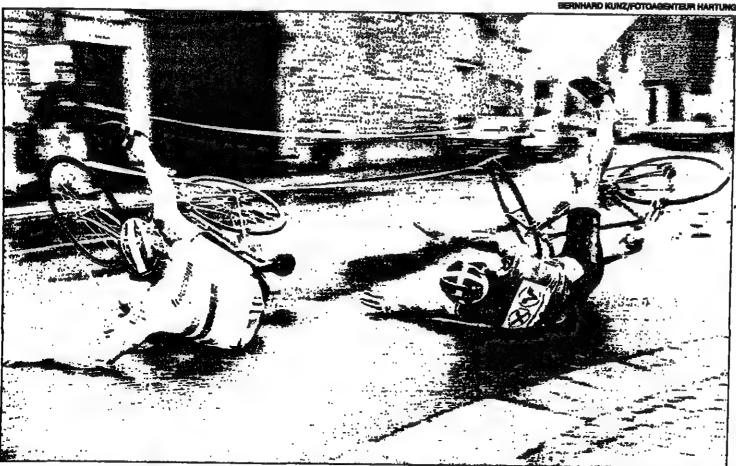
water distorting them and the caps hiding their heads, the subject of the bronze medal, by contrast, is almost all too

Like the winning colour shot, Ferenc Nemeth's shot captures a triumphant winner, one of the essences of sport and sports photography. But the face of the autocross rider, with just his white teeth shining through a mud-covered face, is of sheer, unalloyed pleasure rather than triumph. It is, simply, a nice photo, one which makes you smile back at it and one which reminds us that if sport does anything, it should be to give pleasure to both participants

● The winning photographs and a selection of many others The silver medal was an in the competition can be artistic study, with the jurors found in The IOC Best of impressed by the composition Sport Photographic Book, Vol-Road, London WC2 (£20).



Maximum Impact: Gugelmin's March hits Berger's Ferrari on the first corner of the French grand prix



The slide and fall of racing cyclists: symmetry and synchronisation as two West German riders take a high-speed tumble at a bend



Art and goalkeeping: Pumpido, the Argentinian goalkeeper, is a study of light and shade during the opening match in the World Cup



Surface tension: swimmers at the Commonwealth Games



The joy of sport: purity smiling through the autocross mud

HOCKEY

#### A northern welcome waiting for Grimley

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

AFTER spending several seasons in the south of England.
Martyn Grimley returns to
Cheshire for the traditional
Boxing Day match against Lancashire at Liverpool Sefton Club today. Grimley, the Great Britain and England forward, is one of ten Neston players chosen by Cheshire, who have also included Barker and Standors from Warrington

hope from Warrington. Whereas Neston have banked primarily on experience, Lan-cashire have assembled a team cashire have assembled a want of comparatively young players, foremost among them Bell and Shipton from Formby. Among the more seasoned players is Andy Ferns, of Hounslow.

The event, according to the format of recent years, is played at three levels, veterans, juniors and seniors. Cheshire won the trophy last year on their overall

and seniors. Cheshire won the trophy last year on their overall tally of points. They were carried to success by their under-21 side, which won comfortably, the senior match having been drawn 3-3.

For many years the appendix

drawn 3-3.

For many years, the annual match between these sides has drawn large crowds, attracted as much by the stimulus of competition as by the convivality identified with it.

Not to be outdone, the south-

own festive occasion at Cheam, where the President's XI is opposed in the best of spirits by the club first XI. The game will be played on the Old Walcountiers exificial true mitch as ians artificial turf pitch at Carshalton Road, Woodmansterne (11am).

In the past decade the President's XI have won hand-somely, but this year Tony Bennett's selection has been somewhat restricted, many of.

There is another reason why he has reservations about his team's chances. Cheam are in a team's chances. Cheam are man a more exalted position in the Pizza Express London League than that to which they are accustomed at this time of year. However, with Molloy of Sur-However, with Molicy of Sur-biton and Marchant of Rich-mond in the side, Bennett has s. The club capt

CYCLING

### Top prize awarded to amateur

By PETER BRYAN

PETER Longbottom, the Yorkides for Manchester Wheelers a surprise Christmas

Plaque.

The award, first made in 1934, is the sport's most prestigious and commemorates the prolific record-breaker became a noted admi

Longbottom's season started with the Commonwealth Games as a member of England's bronze-medal squad in the 100km team time-trial; he was given 48 hours' notice to ride in the 179km road-cace, in which he finished fifth.

In July, riding a rare 25 miles time-trial, he set a national record of 49min 30sec to break the previous best, set by the legendary Alf Engers 12 years earlier, by 11 seconds. Three days later, he won the British 100 miles time-trial title in South Wales.
He finished third in the

national hill climb champ-ionship and last month ended his 10-month season by breaking the straight out 50 miles record at 33mph with a time of 1hr 30min 14sec.

Longbottom, better known for his road-racing successes, also finished third in the seasonlong Star Trophy series.

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Even a safe marina berth holds no guarantees in a famous test or yachting endurance

# Braced to confront the many perils of the boat-buster

IT HAS a reputation second only to the Whitbread Round the World Race, a 630-mile boat-buster. In 1977, 58 of the 129 starters threw in the towel; in 1984, the conditions led twothirds of the fleet to retire hurt. A year later, I experienced just how tough it was aboard the British Southern Cross team yacht, Panda.

We had begun well enough, and led the fleet on corrected time after building up a 15-mile lead over our rival one-tonners in the strong, reaching conditions experienced during the first 24 hours. But then the "Southerly Buster" blew in from nowhere, and raging against a three to four-knot adverse current, the Bass Strait was transformed into a boiling cauldron. Before we knew it the boat was breaking up, and crashing off one standing wave, the bows suddenly split in half,

In 1988, Windward Passage II, a state-of-the-art maxi not dissimilar to Rothmans, suffered a split right across her deck while leading the race, and had she not been turned round immediately, the crew believes the boat would have Pacific championship - and broken in half. We experi- our performance to date has enced something similar to made us favourite with the this during the closing stages bookies. Three line wins this during the closing stages bookies. Three line wins of the first leg of last winter's coupled with a ninth, fifth Whitbread, when a split and first on corrected time opened up across one side of in the first three races of the Rothmans's deck, so we championship have given us record are likely to drift now hope to know how hard great confidence, and a win away with the wind.

LAWRIE

The skipper of Rothmans on the Sydney to Hobart race which started earlier today

we can push our boat. But there are plenty of others who will not

One of them, perhaps, is the man who rammed Rothmans on Sunday as she sat in her marina berth. Even the strongest Austra-lian vocal broadside failed to alert him to the danger as his yacht made a tight turn in one direction, and his head went in the other. Too late, he tried to select re-verse gear, muffed it, and his boat T-boned us, her bows punching a one-foot square hole through Rothmans's two-inch thick carbon and Kevlar stiffened topsides.

His careless action left our hoarse shore crew less than enamoured. They had to spend the whole of Christmas repairing the damage in time for the start.

We are here to try and win the double - line honours in record time, and the Asiain the Sydney to Hobart race, the last in this series, could put us top of that, too.

Our principal competition is Bob Bell's former British maxi, Condor, Syd Fischer's evergreen Australian entry, Ragamuffin, and Brindabella, a 65ft ultralight design that could skate past us if strong downwind conditions prevail all the way to Hobart.

helped Jim Kilroy's 79ft veteran American maxi, Kialoa III, set a time of two days 14hr 33min, a record that has stood for the past 15 years. It is high time it was broken, and conditions will-ing, we have the boat and crew to do it. Ten of our number served with me in the Whitbread race, another six work as our delivery crew, and three more hail back to my days with Australia's America's Cup defender, Kookaburra.

The big question is what

will the weather gods throw

at us. Predictions suggest a

Those were the winds that

good northeaster blowing up to 25 knots to speed us on our way for the first 24 hours, before the "Southerly Buster" strikes as we cross the notorious Bass Strait. If we can reach Tasmania by midday on Friday, Rothmans may carry the sea breeze all the way up the Derwent River. But if we arrive off Hobart at mid-



Lofty ambitions: Tom Warren checks the rigging on Rothmans at her Sydney berth

# Jeantot leads Christmas charge on Sydney

From Bob Ross

IN SYDNEY

SEVEN yachts in a Christmas rush finished the 7,000-nauticalmile, Cape Town to Sydney second leg of the BOC Challenge round the world race within 24

Bunched when they ran into a slow-moving high-pressure system to the south of Australia last. week, they had almost regattastyle racing to the finish. Four or five of the boats were at times within sight of each other in the Bass Strait between Tasmania and the mainland and in one

gerously close.

Winner of the previous two BOC challenges, Philippe Jeantot, of France, sailing Credit Agricole IV, led the charge finishing at 1432hrs local times on Christmas Eve, He was fourth finisher of the 21 starters from Cape Town; more than two days 12 hours behind Alain Gauties, of France, Jeamot was disappointed by the lack of strong winds this time in the Southern Ocean, in whose strong winds his new yacht was built to sustain high speeds.

sailing Innkeeper, finished 45 minutes behind Jeantot, also disappointed at the lack of good breeze in the Southern Ocean — as was the American, Mike Plant, who in Duracell finished at 0136hrs on Christmas Day, although he blew out three of his four spinnakers.

Plant, who won class II of the 1986-97 BOC, said: "We had a helluva run in Bass Strait, 50 knots from behind and towards the end of the day, the seas were pretty extreme: very fast, close together and very steep.

Kanga Birtles, of Australia, sailing Jarkan, who finished 55

minutes behind Plant, said:
"The worst weather we had was
in our own backyard. I went
through the oil rigs [there are 26
of them in Bass Strait] like a

The first class II (50ft and under overall length) finisher was the radical Servant IV (Yves Dupasquier, France), within four hours of Grinaker, Bertie Reed's 60-footer, and without obvious problems.

Next to finish is expected to be the Frenchwoman. Isabelle

Tasmania last Sunday and is proceeding slowly but steadily to Sydney under jury rig. Next class II finisher should be Josh Hall, of Britain, expected on

One skipper filled with Christmas cheer yesterday was Robin Davie, of Britain, who has high hopes of retaking the lead in the Corinthian class. Paul Thackaberry, his American rival sailing Volcano, who had gained a 100-mile lead over Davic a week ago, has fallen foul of a succession of lower states.

### What happened to the season's sporting cheers?

Dear Santa Claus, I wanted to get my thank you

letter off straight away in order to set the right example, although there is not much chance of any of my lot writing to you before they send in their next set of unreasonable demands. The toddler has been known to write a letter, I think the last one was a letter H, but her letters are difficult to post because they are usually written on the carpet. The other two are older and don't believe in you; I am beginning to see why.

I must say you have turned out to be quite a disappointment this year. How did you forget to deliver any television sets with sport on them? I can see how there would not be a lot of interest in sport where you come from, given Lapland's dismal performance in everything except the Hole in Ice Fishing Contest, spon-sored by Fox's Glacier Mints and shown, no doubt, on Channel 4, but I would have thought a man with your global perspective would have realised that there is little to do once the shops close on Christmas Eve except watch television,

Granted Channel 4 came up with its usual quota of American football on Sunday but I fail to see how you could claim the credit for that, given that you have hardly taken off on your rounds at that stage. No, I think that for the purposes of judging your sporting contribution, we must start on Christmas morning and finish on Boxing night. Unfortunately, Boxing night has not arrived yet but I see there is not even a Grandstand on BBC1 this afternoon so I shall not be sleeping in front of that, although I hope to open an eye for the Test match highlights.

What you need to do next year is deliver the gift of insight to the planners at BBC and ITV. You would think that ITV would have the brains to put The Match out on Boxing Day after-noon with Grandstand on BBC1. That way, people like me could sit around saying, oh dear, look at this, no sport for blooming ages then you

TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

on the two main channels.

ITV has missed a golden opportunity here: The Match on Boxing Day would surely draw more people than, hang on, let's see, Lorna Doone. Who she? Of course, ITV put out the Aston Villa v Arsenal game on Sunday. I managed to watch that. My family wanted me to go shopping but I said that I did not agree with all these shops opening on Sunday so we split the domestic duties between us: the family went shopping and I stayed at home to make sure the television did not blow up under one of those power surges we get at Christmas.

Christmas Eve looked a bit more promising, in fact, at first glance I thought you had dropped all the sport down Channel 4's chimney, and that was just in the late morning. First there was three-day eventing from Blenheim. I switched that on and then I thought, hang on, this is like one of those Christmas cards you write in pencil and then get back the following year. It was a repeat All right, it was a compilation. Not to worry though, there was only half an hour to wait between that and Nigel Kennedy Plays The Four Seasons, which I took to be some sort of procelebrity football match. Turned it on, there was a chap with vertical hair and spots playing a violin. What

Christmas Day was a com-plete sports washout. There was Nigel Kennedy Plays Bruch but I wasn't falling for that two days in a row, so I must say I went to bed last night feeling like a man who has been given ten pairs of socks.

Oh well, I expect all this will change when Fifa allows Lapland to stage the World Cup on ice, occupying the whole of December, with the goalposts half a mile apart and red cards for picking up bits of the pitch and putting them in drinks. Until that day dawns I see no point in

#### he the Frenchwoman, Isabelle Autissier, who broke the main mast on her class I yaw! Ecurenil-Poitou-Charente 60 get Grandstand and The Match up against each other us communicating further. MONEY MARKETS UNLISTED SECURITIES # Company to Property to Prope STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES 4 25 AGS Bernett 3 46 AGS Selection 3 1 20 ARTA Selection 3 1 3 Abstrictes Pal 5 1 3 Abstrictes Pal 6 2 3 Abstrictes Pal 6 3 Abstrictes Pal 7 Abstrictes Pal 6 3 Abstrictes Pal 7 Abstrictes Pal 3 morth 2.58-2.83pr 0.95-0.80pr 3%-3%pr 11%-3%pr 11%-3%pr 92-40ds 25-40ds 25-40ds 26-40ds 3%-3%pr 1%-1%ds 3%-3%pr 23%-20%pr 23%-20%pr ECGD: Fixed Rate Starting Export Finance. Make-up day: Oct 31, 1990 Agreed rates Nov 26, 1990 to Dec 25, 1990 Scheme t: 15.06%. Schemes II & XI; 15.32%. 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Platinum prize on Christmas Eve. Mrs. Lucy Ben-Levi, of Hendon, north-west London, Mr Barry Toms, of Lillington Spain Worcestershire, and Mrs. Anne Irons, of Tarn in France, each receive £666.66.

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# Business and Finance Turkish takeover Half-time loss cut at Rush to sign up for USM likely to free BCMB deposits

By Neil Bennett, banking corresponden

MORE THAN 8,000 depos- credit lines to handle an BCMB will virtually complete itors whose savings are frozen expected run on the bank once the break-up of British & in British & Commonwealth the deal is complete, when Merchant Bank are due to receive a late Christmas present. An imminent sale of the deal is done, Cukurova the bank promises to allow its customers access to their

have confirmed that negotiations to sell the bank to Cukurova Group, the Turkish conglomerate, should be com-pleted early in the new year. Almost all BCMB's depositors, owed an estimated £100

million, have had their accounts frozen since June, when the bank and British & Commonwealth its parent, went into administration. Stephen Adamson, one of the administrators from Ernst

& Young, said on Monday: "It is hoped that discussions will be completed very shortly which will then enable the of BCMB's depositors.

The delay in the sale of that the necessary money lines some time." final agreement should be reached next

Cukurova is believed to be paying about £20 million, far faced claims from a group of less than the £40 million or investors who thought their more it offered earlier. Talks with the Bank of England to isation are under way. Cukurova is negotiating a buyer for Shrubb. The sale of

depositors are expected to withdraw their money. When the Deposit Protection Board, which has compensated some of BCMB's depositors for up to £15,000 each. Only 52 of BCMB's clients have been paid, however, since the board has been able to trace only BCMB's small number of

direct depositors. Most of BCMB's funds were deposited indirectly through five stockbroking firms. Only RJ Shrubb is said to have supplied enough information on its clients for the board to begin sending out claims forms. The board and the Bank of England have asked The Securities Association for help to put together a full list

BCMB forced Shrubb, one of are in place. This will take British & Commonwealth's stockbrokers, into administration this month. Shrubb's clients had £38 million frozen in BCMB, and the broker money was deposited at Coutts. The completion of obtain the necessary author- BCMB's disposal will allow the administrators to look for

Commonwealth, once the second largest non-banking financial institution after the Prudential. Exco, the moneywill also owe up to £750,000 to broking arm, is the most substantial asset that remains to be sold. The administrators with Exco's management and other groups. The sale of Provincial Bank, the mortgage provider, has been delayed pany, rose from SwFr2,450 until the housing market

recovers. Last October, Ernst & Young admitted in a report to creditors that it had raised less than £200 million in disposals, compared with the group's debts of up to £1.3 billion.

Cukurova is one of Turkey's three largest conglomerates, with businesses in steel, construction, chemicals and textiles. It owns three banks in Turkey, Yapi Kredi, Pamukbank and Interbank, and Bank Kreiss in Germany. ISTANBUL: The market index at Istanbul's stock exchange hit an 11-month low

on Monday, falling 8.9 per cent as nerves about the Gulf prompted heavy selling. Investors sold the 50-share in-dex (1986:100) down 296.15 points to a 3,039.84 close after Friday's 3,335.99, against a previous low of 2,974.84 on

# Shops sigh with relief

By Ross Tieman INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY of Britain's retailers open their doors for the first day of the sales today in the knowledge that it was not such a bad Christmas after all.

Squalls over Sunday trading asida, most retailers seem to have sailed through a relatively late Christmas shopping season with more momentum than expected.

High interest rates and less readily available credit had only a limited effect on trade. Stanley Kalms, the chairman of Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, said: "There are no tear stains on our carpet." Sales of camcorders, computers and electronic goods had held up well, he said, while overall trading had been

A spokesman for Asda, the supermarket group, said trading in northern England and Scotland was stronger than that in southern England. There had also been a late rush

to the food counters. He said: "Over the past five years there has been a trend for Christmas to come very, very, late, and we had pre-pared ourselves."

He added that families were foods such as Christmas pud- from lobbyists determined to

the assumption of \$186 million in debt or other liabilities.

Until last year Nelson,

which had an excellent box

office return on "Bill and

and "When Harry Met Sally",

appeared to be among a

handful of successful indepen-

.This year, however, the

dent studios.

Ted's Excellent Adventure'



No Sunday trading: Michael Pickard, head of Sears

ding and cakes from super- keep the sabbath sacrosanct. markets, adding to retailers' profits. Like many food retailers. Asda opened its doors early, and carried on trading until 6 pm on Christmas Eve. Many retailers opened on

more inclined to buy prepared Sunday, provoking criticism

with Warner Brothers the

it had achieved Sunday sales worth about a tenth of normal. weekly takings. BhS, part of Storehouse, Nelson sells to Swid opened more than 100 stores last Sunday. However, the company insisted that this was 'a customer service" and that THE British-owned NHI video rentals and a drop of it had no plans to continue

(Nelson Holdings Internation- income after selling certain Sunday opening throughout al) has agreed to sell Nelson foreign distribution rights. the year. Entertainment Group to Ste-phen Swid, the New York of SCS Communications, financier, for \$30 million plus which he formed last year Mr Swid is chief executive Michael Pickard, the chief executive of Sears, said yesterday that the final week "was after being part of a partnerneither a triumph nor a ship that sold CBS songs to Thorn EMI for \$308 million. disaster. It was not a bad week, and we were relatively sat-Nelson has also co-produced isfied against the back-

Ratners, the jeweller, open-

ed on three Sundays before

Christmas, except in areas where councils had had its

shops served with injuctions

preventing trade. Ratners said

ground". recently released production He added that the West End Mr Swid is continuing his of London was relatively quiet plan to buy small to medium on Saturday, but Selfridges, sized entertainment and methe flagship store, did well. dia companies in order to "We are not Sunday traders, company started to suffer build SCS into a broad-based so we did not join in that losses due to lower home communications company. | caper," Mr Pickard said.

# Stonehill

STONEHILL Holdings, the furniture to property group, trimmed pre-tax losses to £650,000 (£904,000 loss) in the six months to end-September. Turnover tumbled from £4.91 million to £606,000, reflecting closures.

Operating profit was £175,000 (£269,000 loss). However, interest payments rose to £825,000 (£635,000). The loss per share was cut to 3.25p (4.73p). Once again, there is no interim dividend. The preference dividend for the six months to end-February 1991 will not be paid because of a lack of distrib-

Ciba-Geigy tonic

pany, rose from SwFr2,450 (£996) to SwFr2,500 on news that American authorities have given permission to Biocine, a joint venture be-tween Ciba-Geigy and Chiron Corp., to test an anti-Aids vaccine on humans.

Foseco 'accepts' Foseco, 63.5 per cent of whose shareholders have accepted the bid from Burmah Castrol. has "with great reluctance" advised shareholders to accept Burmah's offer. Foseco directors will accept in respect of

Petaling halted Petaling Tin, the Malaysian

their own shares.

mining group, has been block-ed by a high court order from finalising a planned share arrangement with Fandison Resources Management,

Ericsson buy Ericsson, the Swedish electronics and telecommunications equipment group, is buying Spectrum Communi-cations and Electronic Corp of

By MARTIN BARROW

THIRD Market companies are making a last-minute dash to apply for a quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market before December 31.

The International Stock Exchange is considering late applications from at least 12 companies that wish to graduate from the Third Market, which will be abolished at the end of the year. But about half of the 34

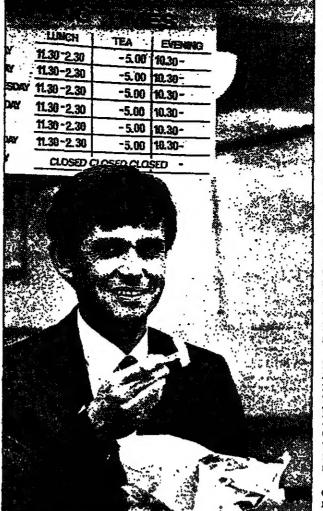
companies still quoted on the Third Market are likely to revert to trading on a matched-bargain basis under the exchange's Rule 535 (2). Two are believed to be considering approaches from other quoted companies.

The Third Market is being phased out to comply with European Commission directives intended to create uniform listing requirements for quoted groups in member

As part of the overhaul, the trading record for the USM is being cut from three years to two. This should enable startup companies which floated on the Third Market to raise launch finance to switch to the USM if they wish. A total of 64 companies

were quoted on the Third Market at the start of 1990. In early January they were joined by another five companies, mainly ventures established under the Business Expansion Scheme, which were seeking to provide a market in their shares before the door was closed.

Since then, the number has steadily been cut, with com-panies switching to the USM or merging with larger part. Baird, an electric motors and ners, although some have fall. domestic appliances maker. en by the wayside. Shares in five companies are suspended. But a sizeable contingent expects to make its debut on the chief executive, is another ments have the right record to USM in the new year. This likely candidate for promo-suggest greater stock market should include Tomorrows tion, to the delight of the ambitions. Hilclare switched Leisure, a hotelier and snook-



USM: John Barnes of Herry Ramsden's

Holdings, which has a theme park in Cornwall; and Hartley Baird, an electric motors and de Groot, the toy company,

er club operator, Barbican 12.8 per cent shareholder. Wilton Group, probably best known for its stake in Cowan

could also move up to the Harry Ramsden's, the fish USM. Sleepy Kids, Oxford and chip shop operator where Virology, Chemex Interna-John Barnes is chairman and tional and Caldwell Invest-Kuwait Food Company, its to the USM this month. A ket was intended to replace.

cluster of exploration com-panies based in Dublin are likely to take advantage of a decision by the Irish Stock Exchange to retain its Third Market to provide a market in their shares. A likely exception is Eglinton Exploration, an oil producer and gold miner, which has indicated its inten-

tion to join the USM. Many companies had not made clear their intentions to the Stock Exchange before Christmas, and it can only be assumed that these will fall back on Rule 535 (2) or are considering alternatives, including a takeover.

Question marks hang over the intentions of Analysis Holdings, the electronic publishing group, and Semper-nova, which makes an edible coating designed to extend the shelf life of fresh fruit and vegetables. Edinburgh Hibernian, the football club, which fought off a bid by Heart of Midlothian, may also lose its stock market listing.

Many Third Market companies see no advantage in incurring the cost of applying for a USM quotation when there is almost no market in their shares at the moment Most of the equity is held by directors or individual institutions that supported their flotation and trading in these shares is already difficult.

The relatively high number of companies that will not make the transition suggests that the Stock Exchange has been firm with those it deems unsuitable for the USM, taking some of the heat out of accusations that the market would be devalued by the admission of Third Market groups.

It will be interesting to see, however, whether the sudden increase in companies trading under Rule 535 (2) results in the re-creation of the unlamented over-the-counter market, which the Third Mar-

#### Gibbens to retire as Sema chairman

**Brent buys Process Ink** 

By OUR CITY STAFF

BRENT Chemicals Inter- range of inks and coatings to

£5.4 million. cash. Brent will pay £1.15 mil-Process, which is based at St lion 18 months after comple

Helens, Merseyside, with a tion and £1.25 million, in cash

further manufacturing site at or interest-bearing loan stock,

Atherstone, Warwickshire, 30 months after completion.

national, the speciality chemi- the packaging market."

as chairman of Sema Group, the Anglo-French computer software and services company, when the year ends next

The move is seen as the last step of the boardroom restructuring since the company was CAP Group.

In an agreed statement, Mr Gibbens, who has spent 28 board since 1988. He is a ened trading session a total of above their worst levels of the wessex 19 to 2579, energy years with the group, said: "I former Spanish minister of 104.2 million shares were day. The FT-SE 100 index Yorkshire 2p to 267p. The am very proud of the achieve- finance and is chairman of the traded. The electricity sector finished 8.1 lower at 2,156.3. water package advanced £15 to £2,603. Group over the past three decades."

He added: "During this period, an entirely new industry has been established. With the creation of a truly European business now a reality, the time is right to

Greame Ferrero, Sema's UK marketing director, said that in Britain, which accounts for 37 per cent of the group's business, "the effects successor will be British.

cals group, is extending its

packaging inks and coatings

activities with the acquisition

of Process Ink Holdings for

supplies inks and coatings to

the packaging industry and

packaging inks and coatings area. We now offer a complete

BARNEY Gibbens is to retire of recession are clear", although Europe is faring much

> Mr Ferrero said France, Belgium and Spain are "slowing down slightly" although German trading has been "bright" since unification. Sema also announced the

created two years ago with the appointment of Antonio merger of Sema Metra and Barrera de Irimo as deputy been a member of Sema's Company.

About 20 per cent of the group's shares are in British hands. Compagnie Financière de Paribas, the investment banking group, has a 37 per cent stake, while Cap Gemini Sogeti, the French software house, has built up a hostile 27.8 per cent holding.

A new chairman has not yet

Brent paid £3 million on

completion, of which £50,000

will be settled by the issue of shares and the remainder in

cash. Brent will pay £1.15 mil-

Process Ink made pre-tax

profits of £500,000 in the year

with pre-tax profits of £380,000.

# STOCK MARKET

### Electricity loses power as small investors cash in

FRANK and his friends were trading, touching £1,455 be tracted by the defensive qual-out in force on Christmas Eve, fore closing £40 lighter at ities of the water companies cashing in their profits from £1,460. Brokers said every and prices closed higher on the electricity. £1,460. Brokers said every and prices closed higher on the electricity. electricity.

vate investors were unloading were met by bargain hunters, parcels of 100 shares in the 12. The rest of the equity

Market-makers, knowing that private investors had started receiving their allocations, marked prices lower at the outset, forcing them to accept a smaller profit on their investment. Falls were seen in most places, although there was one area of resistance helped by continued talk of stakebuilding. South Wales, where Welsh Water has already taken a near 10 per cent stake, held steady at 164p.

Eastern lost 31/2p to 1351/2p, Fast Midland 3p to 147p, London 3p to 14/p, London 3p to 14/p, London 3p to 141p, Manweb 4p to 172p, Midland 3p to 140p, Northern 3p to 146p, Norweb 2p to 146p, Seeboard 4p to 141p, Southern 4/p to 1400. 140%p, South West 5p to 146p, and Yorkshire 2p to 158p. The electricity package dipped below £1,500 in early

Substantial numbers of pri- the price to drift too far, they

The FT index of 30 shares lost to £2,603. 9.5 at 1,678.9.

Government securities were left nursing falls of £4 at the longer end as the prospects of an early cut in interest rates continued to fade. Oil shares responded pos-

itively to the increasing tension in the Middle East and political turmoil in the Soviet Union, but dealers said this was more of a pre-emptive mark-up than a sign of gen-uine support. BP rose 4p to 339p, Enterprise IIp to 610p, Lasmo 10p to 388p, Shell 6p reluctantly recommended its increased offer of 300p a share to shareholders. Foseco shares 13.7p a share. responded by matching Burm-

day. Anglian firmed lp to 271p, Northumbrian lp to 275p, North West 2p to 266p, parcels of 100 shares in the 12 The rest of the equity Severn Trent 3p to 240p, electricity companies after fi-market had a subdued session. Southern 1p to 244p, South chairman. Mr Barrera has nally receiving their share Share prices lost ground on West 1p to 262p, Thames 4p been a member of Sema's certificates. During the short-lack of support but closed to 270p, Welsh 1p to 273p,

> Mersey Docks and Harbour Company fell 20p to 165p on ings' 10 per cent stake in the company had been placed with institutions late on Friday at 161p.

> ICI fell a further 9p to 879p. still overshadowed by last week's profit downgradings by brokers to below £1 billion.

Speyhawk, the property developer, fell 16p to 83p with the market worried by reports that the group is finding the going tough.
WPP Group recovered 10p

to 467p and Ultramar 5p to 324p. Burmah gained 5p to end at 60p after falling 510p as the board of Foseco sharply on Friday, when the advertising group revoked its 1990 interim dividend of

Analysts said the shares had been suffering for some time and were due for a recovery. ah's terms with a rise of 15p. Fund managers were at-

Slow trade

#### ( WORLD MARKETS )

### Nikkei slips 1.4%

specialises in offset inks. to end-February, on sales of Steve Cuthbert, Brent's £4,9 million. Sales for the six chief executive, said: "Process months to end-August brings a new dimension to our amounted to £3.1 million, SHARES closed weaker across

the board in one of the slowest trading days of the year. The holiday season, political uncertainties in the Soviet Union, events in the Gulf, and a weaker yen combined to sap buying energy from the market, brokers said. Mike Morizumi, associate

strategist at Lehman Brothers Japan, said: "Most foreigners are away, and sales people are sitting around looking at each other. It's a totally inefficient day. Everyone should have stayed at home." The Nikkei index fell

351.72 points, or 1.46 per first close below 24,000 since December 12. The index had a day. fallen 405.34 points on Friday,

Sydney closes at low NERVOUSNESS over the

deadline for potential hostillack of investor interest before the Christmas break pushed the Australian stock market to

while Monday was a national holiday in Japan.

Turnover totalled 210 million shares, matching the second lowest volume of the year, set on November 20. Falling. issues led gaining shares by about seven to one. The broader first section index, Topix, lost 39.65 points

to 1,725.17, after falling 30.55 points on Friday. Yesterday was the last trading day for settlement in December, a fact that kept many players out of the

market, brokers said. The market closes for the year after a half-day of trade on December 28 and reopens cent, to close at 23,767.88, the on January 4, when trading first close below 24,000 since will again be restricted to half

Ordinaries index closed 1.5

points lower at 1,270.7, its lowest close since February ities in the Middle East and 29, 1988. The All-Industrials index declined 1.2 points to 1,935.1, the All-Resources dipped 1.2 its lowest close for nearly three points to 759.1, while the gold ner to provide capital backing. years. Trade was dull, with marker gained 12.2 points to Swiss Bank's AAA credit rat- overseas buyers adopting a 1,135.3.

#### sends **Dow lower** New York

SHARES ended a sparsely

attended session with moderate losses in the slowest trading for four years. Investor uncertainty about tensions in the Gulf and concern about the Soviet Union kept buyers awav.

Sharp losses in the bond market also discouraged gains. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 12.37 points lower at 2,621.29. Declining shares led gaining issues eight to five as about 57 million shares were traded, the lowest volume since December 26, 1986, when 48.9 million shares traded. The market closed two hours early.

Comments at the weekend from America and Iraq heightened fears of a war in the Middle East

Shares in Hanover were actively traded, falling \$1/2 at \$23%. The stock trades minus its dividend from today.

Shares in several utilities were also active. Southern New England Telephone fell \$% to \$33%, while Commonwealth Edison rose \$1/8 to (Reuter) \$34%.

#### prepares cup tie

# IG bets on a political future

By MARTIN WALLER

THE next election will be held in the first half of September and will give the Conservatives a majority of 320 seats, 27 more than Labour, but not enough to hand them outright control. The Christmas season is traditionally

the time for such prognostications, but the above comes not from Old Moore's Almanac or even from a weighty political pundit. It comes courtesy of IG Index, the specialist financial bookmaker, and represents the view of the gambling man in the street.

Betting on the outcome of the election represents a fringe, albeit fun, business for a bookie that prefers to concentrate on stock market indices, currencies and

commodity prices.

During the electricity float, IG Index was the source of the "grey market" prices, which indicate, or say some commentators influence, the first dealings of major issues. IG reckons to have made a five-figure loss on electricity, as the prices on the day ran away from even the most optimistic forecasts. As the offer closed on December 5, the book-

maker indicated an average premium of 32p, half the figure eventually achieved, although the view that the issue would be a success pushed the average to about 146p as first dealings approached. Financial health warnings are plas-

tered over IG's literature. The warnings are wholly justified, for this is in no way a low-risk operation. IG is a member of Association of

Futures Brokers and Dealers and its financial bets are legally enforceable, unlike other gambling agreements, courtesy of a special provision in the Financial Services Act. Gains are taxfree, but losses cannot be offset against tax. As an execution-only dealer, IG is strictly precluded from giving advice.

The potential gains are huge, but the downside is equally enormous. A client might typically limit a smaller bet to £1,000, but an adverse market movement could wipe this out entirely. Clearly this is not a market for Aunt

Agatha. The impression of the typical

customer is of a Capital City type who

finds his day job on the currency or

futures desk too staid and boring and

profit on the spread between the two quotes it gives potential customers. It makes most of its money in turbulent markets, which tend to tempt in gamblers. Business hit a record on the Monday after Britain joined the European exchange-rate mechanism. The curriculum vitae of Stuart Wheeler, IG's founder, sets him a little apart from the average bookmaker. His

wants to enliven his leisure hours. IG

offsets part of its risk by hedging on the

relevant market and makes much of its

background takes in Eton and the Guards, the law and merchant banking, from which he made his exit during the secondary banking crisis of the early Seventies. He said: "It's high risk, there's no question about that, and we try to emphasise that in our literature. But the fact that we are a bookmaker doesn't make it any more risky than dealing through an options or commodities

In 1986, the company bought the financial betting division of Ladbroke Group, since when it has never looked back - only forwards.

#### **Swiss Bank** in Chicago futures link

SWISS Bank Corporation has won approval from the Federal Reserve Board to form a strategic alliance with O'Connor Partners, one of America's largest futures and options firms. The link-up will allow Swiss Bank to sell currency and interest rate option worldwide.

Swiss Bank is investing more than \$100 million for an 80 per cent stake in SBC/OC Partners, the new joint venture, which will provide technical services.

O'Connor, of Chicago, will continue to run its American equities business, while Swiss Bank will take over its foreign exchange and European and Japanese business.

O'Connor required a parting made it an ideal partner. | wait-and-see attitude. The All-

# deals

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RMC Group, the ready mixed concrete supplier, has uncovered arrangements restricting competition between nine of its British subsidiaries and 20 other producers of ready RMC has given details to the owns United Airlines, mixed concrete in their areas. Office of Fair Trading.

restrictive practices court. Details were revealed in a press release dated Saturday, December 22, which invited queries only after January 3. RMC has been involved in

restrictive practices in the supply of cement twice before. In 1978, court orders were obtained by Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of fair trading, against 44 ready including RMC, prohibiting restrictive arrangements. In June this year, RMC and two other suppliers admitted contempt of court after RMC management uncovered cartel arrangements at subsidiaries. Sir Gordon has criticised

the construction industry repeatedly as having the worst record of restrictive practices. In the past five years, his office has also uncovered pricefixing cartels in the supply of steel bars, insulation materials, glass and road surfacing materials. During the con-tempt hearing in June, RMC told the restrictive practices court that it was carrying out further enquiries. The contempt proceedings arose from a discovery, in 1987, that in 1983 one of RMC's subsidiaries had been party to restrictive arrangements in the Banbury and Bicester areas of Oxfordshire. The latest discoveries con-

cern arrangements operated "at various periods from the 1987 order". RMC said "a few" did not end until "about three years ago". The company said that the

arrangements were in contravention of express instructions to staff. "RMC has expressed to the OFT its regret about these arrangements,

Under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976, details of agreements involving certain restrictions must be sent to the OFT. They are then referred to the Restrictive Practices Court for a ruling on whether they operate against the public interest. Where such a ruling has been made, companies and the executives of companies that continue to operate outlawed agreements

# Restricted Pan Am raises at RMC \$20m in plane deal with UAL

America's largest carrier, The discovery means RMC yesterday gave the strugmight be in contempt of the gling Pan American Corporation a \$20 milkeep it in the air.

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The cash was in payment for Pan Am's San Francisco operations, the first phase of a larger deal which includes selling United a package of routes into London's Heathrow airport for \$400 million.

The San Francisco agreement calls for Pan Am to sell to United two Boeing 747/200 aircraft, spare parts and various leaseholds at the airport. Pan Am said it has been paid for and has delivered the planes. The transfer of the San Francisco assets is awaiting final municipal approval.

But the \$20 million cash

may only tide Pan Am over for a few weeks. Sales of spare parts and smaller assets are expected to bring in a further \$10 million and Boeing bas just paid the airline \$80 million for planes, although much of that has already gone to pay other debts.

Plane maker Airbus Industrie has given a further 20 days' grace on more than \$30 million it is owed while Pan Am seeks more time to pay. Late yesterday, unconfirmed

UAL Corporation, which to bid \$150 million for Pan as the deal needs approval Am's New York-BostonWashington shuttle.

American regulators. American regulators.
Officials of the United

Pan Am needs at least \$100 million within weeks. A shortterm bridging loan to keep the lion Christmas present to sticking points of TWA's \$375 keep it in the air. sticking points of TWA's \$375 million bid for the airline. A condition of that loan was that Pan Am file for Chapter

11 bankruptcy and then emerge from court protection with TWA as its preferred creditor and effective owner. Analysts say such a deal would be advantageous to Carl Icahn, TWA's owner and

a former corporate raider, but hopes of a deal with TWA are beginning to fade. Pan Am, despite its problems, is said to be unwilling to go into bank-ruptcy to facilitate the TWA A rival offer has already emerged from a consortium called Iowa Acquisition

Group. However, analysts are sceptical over financing for its \$450 million takeover and Pan Am says it is unclear of IAG's intentions. IAG has declined to name any merchant bank or identify any of its backers. A simple short-term sol-

ution for Pan Am's cash problems would have been an advance from United on part of the \$400 million due once the Heathrow routes change reports suggested Northwest hands. But it is understood Airlines had raised the money United was reluctant to agree,

States Department of Trans-port and United executives returned to America no nearer any agreement. Approval for any agreement. Approval for the routes is part of a much wider issue which could shape the fature of British Airways. In mid-November, UAL agreed the deal to acquire Pan Am's five key London routes, and subsequently TWA

and subsequently TWA agreed to sell its major America to London routes to AMR Corp for \$445 million.

Britain is unlikely to agree to the sale of any of the London routes until America gives ground and allows BA to operate services within America and in competition with its domestic airlines. American carriers already operate with UK passengers on flights to other parts of Europe.

Failure for BA to gain access to the American domestic market would be a major setback to BA's strategy of becoming a global carrier in the Nineties and would leave American airlines, particu-larly United, dominating worldwide air travel.

Each delay in the talks threatens Pan Am's survival. Once the king of transatlantic air travel, it has given warning more than once in the past few months that it may have to file

# THF success no pie in the sky



BRIAN Todd, head chef at Trusthouse Forte in-flight catering kitchens at Gatwick airport, dusts with sugar some of the 50,000 mince pies baked for those travelling by air over the Christmas

The THF chain prepared 200,000lb of Brussels sprouts, 50,000 turkeys, a million chipolatas and 69 tons of Christmas pudding. Alan Hearn, manag-

ing director of THF hotels, said celebrations had not been hit noticeably by the

Evidence of that was supplied by the company's Country Inns, which were fully booked and where food and beverage business was strong. THF was also expecting to meet its target of a 5 per cent increase in Christmas trade. THF spent £60 million this year refurbishing 25 per cent of its hotel bedrooms and has regained its status as the favourite chain for frequent business travellers in the annual, independent National Opinion Polls survey. THF lost the position to Ladbroke's

Hilton chain of hotels for the first time "We are particularly pleased to have

Istanbul

inevitable".

won this back," Mr Hearn said.

Strike to close

Polly Peck's

Unipac plant

UNIPAC. Polly Peck Inter-national's North Cypriot card-board packing plant, will be closed because of the failure to

settle a strike over pay that has

halted production. Turkey's

The strike, by more than

150 Unipac workers, began on

December 3. The news agency

that said the company had failed to meet client orders

and that stopping operations at the factory "has become

Michael Jordan, one of the

three administrators running

the affairs of Polly Peck, said:

THE POUND

(Reuter)

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Anatolian News Agency has

#### Reuters in pact with Chicago exchanges

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

REUTERS, the information services group, and two Chicago futures exchanges have agreed on a letter of intent to set up Globex, an electronic futures and options trading system. If Globex proves successful it could change the archaic open-outery market beyond all recognition.

The deal between Reuters,

the Chigago Board of Trade (CBOT) and the Chicago Mer-cantile Exchange (CME), the world's largest futures and 20-year contract to establish Globex.

Initially, Globex will be employed in after-hours trading but, if it works successfully, it will eventually replace the open-outery market at CBOT and the CME. Globex even has the potential to emerge as a world monopoly because of the strong position of the two Chicago exchanges. A decision on Globex has

long been awaited, and its implementation as an afterbours trading system is now expected by the end of March with on-site testing in Chi-cago. New York and London. Globex has been developed jointly by the three parties and

ing in recent months but the launch has been postponed several times. The same fate has befaller Dealing 2000, a technically similar system developed for the foreign exchange markets.

An agreement has yet to be

has undergone extensive test-

reached on when the system is to be implemented. The letter of intent is described as resolving all substantive issues but is subject to natification by CBOT and CME members and approval by respective governing

SPURS

FOR

SALE

"Funny old game, stock markets"

chairman in an executive capacity.

Shephard will come in as deputy

Another resignation that might

have gone unnoticed was that of

Robert Kempton from Perry Group,

# Japan plans a neutral budget

posed a tight budget of yen 70.3 trillion for the fiscal year starting April 1, 1991 with smaller increases in defence spending and overseas aid than in the previous year,

sents a 6.2 per cent increase in spending over that planned for the current fiscal year. This compares with 9.6 per cent growth in 1990/91.

of the research division of the ministry's budget bureau, anticipated slower growth in said: "Japan's fiscal situation to most other industrial coun-

to allocate funds in such a way that will enable Japan to meet its expanding world role, Mr Matsutani added. The ministry set a 5.8 per cent increase in overseas aid

in the main government budget to about Y865 billion, slightly less than the 5.9 per cent increase projected in the current fiscal year. A final increase in overall

overseas aid for 1991/92, how-

The ministry will negotiate with spending departments on the details of the budget before the government produces a final draft on Saturday.

The ministry budgeted a 5.1 per cent hike in defence spending for 1991/92, to about Y4.37 trillion after a planned 6.1 per cent rise in 1990/91. Defence spending will be less than 1 per cent of rowth in 1990/91. total economic output (gross national product) in 1991/92. Ministry officials cited

tax revenues and higher debt nains grim in comparison servicing costs among factors contributing to a tighter

Higher interest rates and oil prices coupled with a plunge in share prices this year cut into corporate profits, causing a slowdown in tax revenues. However, the draft budget

was not designed to stimulate the economy, which is expected to remain buoyant. The fiscal 1991 budget is neutral for the economy," said Mr Matsutani.

Private economists have joined the government in saying that slower economic growth will help prevent a rekindling of inflation.

Tokyo Commodity Exchange

(TOCOM) closed at Y1,729

#### STOCK MARKET FT 30 Share 678.9 (-9.5)

1.8750 (-0.0090)

German mark

2.8875 (+0.0021)

92.7 (-0.1)

Exchange index

FT-SE 100 2156.3 (-8.1) New York Dow Jones 2621.29 (-12.37) Tokyo Nikkei Avge Closed Closing Prices ... Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14% 3-month interpank 13%-6-13% 3-month eligible bits 13 2-13% US: Pane Rate 10% Federal Funds 5% 3-month Treasury Bills 6 54-6 53% 30-year conds 1041: 1041:

DM2 6875 SeFr2 4600 FFr9 7675 Yen254 51 \$ FFr5 2010 \$ Yen136 t0 \$ Index 62 3 SDP Enva E Index 92.7 ECU Sn/a E ECUn/a

CURRENCIES

GOLD

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NORTH SEA OIL

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But by then the market had shut up

#### Sale Now On **BEDS · BEDDING · BEDLINENS** FURNISHINGS · ACCESSORIES fluge reductions **Normal** on ex-display models! Price Price Kigh Quality Pocket Sprung Mattresses & Divans HARGOT: Onan Set 5 UT \$1275 £875 MERALD Dags Sci 50" £1016 £695 1685 Traditional & Modern Brass Bedstead ONFORD Brass Sedstead 46° FLORA Cross Sedstead 50° ECLIPSE Erass Bedstead 50° 1795 1673 Traditional & Modern Wooden Beds DIGENTY Crackle Glaze & Gold Leaf Eedstead 50" £1090 £595 SORBENTO Katrust Fourposter 60° £2295 £1495 Mas Full Range of Sedroom Acces Mirrors Lamps Tables etc. £450 £325 Rage Selection of Italian Bedspreads at MALF PRICE OF LESSI eg. ROYALE £225 £110 Specially Selected from our Exclusive Stock! SIETUS Lacquer & Loather Bedslead 160 > 300cm \$1095 £950 12RLHO Gammetal & Brass Bedstead 46" £1350 £1180 LIBERTY An Deta Boistead 50" £1395 £1150 WASHSTAND Model 139, Victorian Style 5399 £325 VALET Model 144 Brass & Mood £130 299 STANDARD LAMP Model 124:5, Brass £199 £150 \$145 LINEA Brass Table 1180

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96B Camden High St. NW1 071-388 0364

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: 5 The Pantiles 0892 515 099

BOURNEMOUTH: The Quadrant Centre,

Old Christchurch Rd, 0202 296484

#### Refinance saves Isosceles By Michael Tate, Deputy City editor ISOSCELES, the Gateway after the refinancing - and Isosceles. It could raise up to

supermarket chain, has won that the value of the new units £237 million if all the outside its battle for survival, after an will be "very sensitive" to shareholders take part. agreement with its bankers future trading profits, the level and main equity holders for a of interest charges and the refinancing that will raise at timing of and proceeds from 12.99 million new Isosceles least £222 million of capital, the sale of Herman's, the units, each of which will Details, including terms of the American sporting goods comprise three new ordinary open offer, were dispatched on group.

But the 4,000 small investors, who speak for about 13.5 per cent of the equity, will apply for the new units only at their peril. The prospectus contains a strong warning about the risks of the stock.

Isosceles points out that borrowings will remain high senior and mezzanine debt will still be about £1.2 billion

cant degree of risk" in the new units, given economic uncertainties and fierce competition in food retailing. It says the board has "no plans shares in the near future", and speaks of the difficulties of trading in the units. There will be no dividend "in the

foresecable future".

The prospectus confirms that the City takeover panel has cleared Wasserstein Perella, the New York investment group, to lift its stake in Isosceles to 40 per cent. The decision by Wasser-

the success of the group's refinancing after the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A & P), which speaks for 19.9 per cent of the equity, refused to take part. A&P has said, however,

that it will vote in favour of the package, and will retain its right to appoint a director to the Isosceles board. But in underwriting the A&P entitlement, Wasserstein Perella will take its holding above the 30 per cent level that would

By DAVID BREWERTON

THERE'S nothing like Christmas Eve (except New Year's Eve and Maundy

Thursday) for announcing the news

that its subjects might prefer was

never read. Some items, however,

deserve a proper audience. Scottish Heritable Trust, for in-

stance, told that small section of the

City that struggled into work that the

interim package of support from its principal United Kingdom bankers.

which was due for review at the end of

the year, has been extended. Dis-

cussions with those bankers, said

Scottish Heritable Trust, are contin-

uing and it is expected that a further

announcement will be made in the

Good news, one might think. But read on. The board also announced

the resignation of Stephen McBride.

the financial director, who will be

leaving the company at the end of the

year, which coincides with the close of

the financial period. Mr McBride was

the unfortunate director who had to

add up the figures. Bad results not

only take longer to add than good

From New Year's Day, Roy

ones, they are also more dangerous.

early part of next year.

The rescheduling will be effected via an open offer of

shares and nine new redeemshares. The new units will roughly triple the size of existing issued capital. Apart from Wasserstein Perella, which will underwrite

to seek a listing for Isosceles £115 million, the UK consortium of Mercury Asset Management, 3i, Globe Venture Nominees, Murray Johnstone and Standard Chartered Bank, together with Euris SA, the French fund management group, will take up its entitlement, totalling £107 million, leaving it with a 46.5 per cent holding. Of the new money, between

£135 million and £150 million stein Perella was essential to will be cash, with the balance representing the conversion of mezzanine debt into equity. Crucial to the package was

the agreement of the group's lenders to a new repayment schedule for £592 million of senior debt, from 1991 and 1992 to August 1996, and the deferral of £48 million of mezzanine loan interest. Ernest Sharp, Isosceles chairman, said the group now

had an equity base more appropriate to the size of the business. He added that he normally trigger a bid.

Details of the restructuring will guarantee at least £222 million of new capital for supermarkets."

was delighted with the refinancing, "We can now get on with the job of running supermarkets."

# Tokyo Japan's finance ministry pro-

ministry officials said. The proposed budget repre-

However, the ministry tried

ever, would be about 8 per cent, taking all funding into consideration, after a final 8.2 per cent rise planned for

GOLD prices in Tokyo surged as individual investors bought up the precious metal in reaction to increasing Gulf tension. The advance was magnified by thin trading.

Gold bullion was quoted at \$390 an ounce at the end of Tokyo trading, its highest up from \$383.38 in Zurich on itomo Corp.

Gay, chairman, said: "The informa-

tion we have received is not satisfac-

tory to us and we are not, therefore,

Ptarmigan Holdings, the artificial flowers, sausage skins and hotel

company that this year sold its fish

farm and cake artistry businesses, is,

meanwhile, trying to focus on one

principal business area and adopt a

clear strategy", perhaps in the hope

No final dividend will be paid for

the year ended June 30. Pre-tax profits

of £203,357 compared with £422,749,

Turnover was £4.92 million (£7.49

million). Net earnings turn out at 2.2p

compared with 4.08p a share pre-

viously. There was a £683,749

extraordinary loss, and Ptarmigan

shows a £493,339 loss for the account-

terim dividend of 0.25p a share this

year. For the previous 18-month

Ptarmigan paid an unchanged in-

ing period.

while Eurocopy, in a Christmas Eve accounting period, Ptarmigan paid

that its shareholders do not focus on

proceeding with the acquisition."

#### Gold surges to \$390 Monday. The spot January gold futures contract on the

per gram, up Y57 from Friday. Short-covering by speculators on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange sparked a rally, said Takeo Umezawa, deputy general manager of Precious level since early October and Metals Marketing at Sum-

All the news that's fit to bury two interim dividends and a final had withdrawn from negotiations to dividend of 0.25p, making 0.75p for acquire the dealer division of Consolithe period. dated Microvision (Holdings). Cyril Alan McClue, chairman, said it was

an increasingly difficult year for the group with a severe downturn experienced in the second half. The current year started well in the artificial flowers division, but Mr McClue is Brent (Jan ) cautious about short-term prospects. The shares traded at 15p on Monday, Kuala Lumpur Kepong reported halved pre-tax profits of M\$84.8 million (£16.27 million), against

M\$171.9 million, in the year ended September. But the company says if higher palm products prices are maintained, results should improve this financial year. If not, stand by next Cristmas Eve. Wide awake dealers also learned

that the covertible capital bond issue at LIT Holdings, the futures clearing and financial services group, has been shunned by its shareholders. Only 3.35 per cent of the £5.75 million issue has been applied for, leaving the banks to take up the remaining £5.56 million.

shop for the holiday.

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